

ET SIS

A
*History of the
Fraternities
and
Sororities
of
Drake University*

Sheree L. Clark

Lynden Lyman

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ET SIS: A HISTORY OF THE FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES OF DRAKE UNIVERSITY

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Preface

The publication of *ETSYS*, a title we chose to honor Drake University's first enduring Greek-letter social organization, Epsilon Tau Sigma, marks the close of four years of research, writing, and rewriting. This final product differs significantly from the first draft, which was a history of the campus' fraternities prepared as an undergraduate thesis by Lynden Lyman in the spring of 1981. Some five drafts later we concluded the project, although admittedly our study could have continued indefinitely. Every attempt was made to produce as comprehensive a history as time and existing documentation would permit, containing the information that we felt to be most noteworthy, relevant, and interesting.

At the risk of appearing pretentious, the extent of our research may be of interest. Many hours were spent examining literally thousands of university documents regarding fraternities and sororities; some difficulty was posed by the fact that these records were not stored in any one place, but rather were located in every conceivable filing cabinet and facility throughout the campus. Fortunately, as word of our project spread, the existence and location of such documents was called to our attention, which allowed us to achieve the degree of detail found in this work. Every issue of the student newspaper, *The Delphic*, from 1891 to the present, was examined; each edition of the university annual, *The Quax*, from the time in which Greek-Letter social organizations first appeared, was reviewed; and 80 years worth of Drake catalogs were consulted. The archives of the Iowa State Historical Society were called upon, as were the holdings of all national organizations which have established groups on campus; those national organizations which were particularly generous in their assistance are acknowledged at the conclusion of the appropriate sections. Many undergraduate groups were helpful in loaning to us scrapbooks and chapter minutes, for which we are likewise grateful. Over

1500 of the university's alumni were contacted in some shape or form, with their personal reminiscences providing us with an invaluable perspective on student life at Drake throughout the decades. Additionally, local newspapers, fraternity magazines, and the three versions of the university's history were utilized; in effect, we consulted every imaginable source to ensure that *ETSYS* would be as complete and as accurate as possible.

Nevertheless, errors and omissions may be discovered, for which we can only apologize and assume full responsibility; we would certainly have no objection if the publication of this volume brought further facts to light. The rule of reason prevented us from noting every single individual which had an impact upon the Drake fraternity system, with only those determined to be most instrumental included. However, we feel that it is important to acknowledge that the popularity and prominence which Drake's Greek-letter social organizations have achieved would not have taken place but for the contributions made by the thousands of unnamed, rank and file members. These were the people that made the fraternity experience both worthwhile and memorable.

In the preparation of *ETSYS: A History of the Fraternities and Sororities of Drake University*, we benefited from the unselfish support and assistance of a number of individuals.

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Preface

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We are mutually indebted to Maurice Littlefield, executive director of Sigma Nu, who whole-heartedly supported the project from its outset; the national office of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, which provided us with access to its library and archives; Connie Chapman and Colleen Devine, who typed and retyped the manuscript; and the national fraternities, foundation, individuals, and undergraduate chapters and organizations which provided the necessary financial support to make ETSIS a reality.

The administration of Drake University also deserves recognition for its enthusiastic

endorsement of this volume. Although ETSIS may at times appear to be critical of past university policies, hindsight remains to be 20-20, and it is our belief that much of the success that the campus fraternities and sororities have enjoyed is directly attributable to the favorable attitude and climate of Drake. The university granted to us the independent discretion to follow our own path; no attempt was made to dissuade us from including some of the less savory incidents and episodes. We are proud as well as thankful that Drake University remains committed to the concept of academic freedom.

Preparing this work has consumed the better part, if not all of our spare time for the past several years. Although the occasion has arrived to end the research and share our findings, we cannot help but feel a slight sense of inadequacy; we concur with a fellow fraternity historian who once wrote that "there were so many things you meant to do, so little time to do them, and you wanted it all to be perfect." The opportunity to construct ETSIS was an unequaled experience for both of us; we gained a great deal of personal satisfaction from our work, in addition to obtaining a new perspective on the meaning of fraternity. Knowledge of the past provides a better understanding of the present, and in reviewing the heritage of the Drake Greek community, there are many lessons to be learned.

SHEREE L. CLARK
LYNDEN LYMAN
Des Moines, Iowa
February 1984

The Making Of A University



Drake University

Building for the centuries: Drake's timeless landmark "Old Main," shortly before its 1883 completion.

It was an ambitious undertaking.

Confronted with declining economic conditions after two decades of apparent prosperity, the Disciples of Christ in Iowa were faced with the decision to move their established Oskaloosa College, the first Christian college founded in Iowa, to another location.

In 1881 a zealous group, led by George Thomas Carpenter, journeyed to Des Moines in search of a suitable site for their educational institution. In Des Moines they found a number of public-spirited individuals ready to support their proposed move and in March 1881, bolstered with a \$20,000 pledge from General Francis Marion Drake of Centerville, for whom the university was named, the educational institution became a reality.

This was Drake University's modest beginning. Its founders dreamed of an institution, broad-based and liberally non-sectarian. And,

to establish the educational climate in which the university would operate, they issued the following statement:

This university has been designed upon a broad, liberal and modern basis. The articles of incorporation provide that all its departments shall be open to all without distinction of sex, religion or race. In its management and influence, it will aim at being Christian, without being sectarian.

While corporate affiliation with the Disciples was subsequently terminated, the university has continued to be guided by this statement of non-discrimination. During the administration of Drake's first president and chancellor, George T. Carpenter (1881-93), the university established itself as an integral part of a young and growing community in the center of the richest agricultural area in

the world. In ten years it boasted of eight departments, 53 teachers and more than 800 students—more than 10-fold the number of students enrolled during its first semester in 1881.

In 1888 a university plan was developed that separated the departments from colleges. These early colleges included the College of Letters and Science, the Normal College, the Music College, the Business College, and the Bible College.

Upon the death of President Carpenter, Barton O. Aylesworth was named acting chancellor and served until 1897 at which time William Bayard Craig assumed the role of the chancellor of the university. Because of demands for more specialized courses from the business and professional communities, Drake University expanded its academic programs and established new ones as they were needed. Much of this growth took place at the turn of the century during the administration of President Hill McClelland Bell (1902-18).

One of the greatest educators and administrators that Drake University and the State of Iowa has ever known, President Bell led Drake through a major building program and the economic difficulties that began with the outbreak of World War I in 1914. So successful were his efforts that he was elected president of the Association of American Colleges in 1917-18, the only chief administrative officer at Drake to achieve that distinction.

During the Bell administration, Cole Hall, which formerly housed the College of Law, was dedicated in 1904; Memorial Hall, which now houses the College of Education, was built in 1905; an addition to Howard Hall was completed in 1908-09; and the Carnegie Library (now the Law School Library) was erected in 1908.

From an educational standpoint, President Bell's tenure was even more significant. He built an outstanding faculty trained in scholarship, dedicated to teaching and intent on raising to high standard the level of academic attainment—as well as instituting many other progressive courses of action on campus.

While athletics, both intramural and inter-collegiate, began in the 1880s, the year 1893 marked the advent of organized, planned sports at Drake. The coming of John L. Griffith, as coach and director of athletics in 1908, accelerated the growth of athletics at Drake. The "D" club was organized that year. When Coach Griffith came to Drake, the teams had variously been called Ducklings, Drakes, Ganders and even Tigers. Later spurred on by a sports editor's inspira-

tion, the Drake teams became the Bulldogs. Coach Griffith's greatest contribution to the university, however, was made in track and field. In 1910, he organized America's great track classic, the Drake Relays.

Drake University's fifth president, Arthur Holmes (1918-23), with the war's end in 1918, turned to peacetime planning and either initiated or encouraged a wide range of programs. Holmes set up a psychological clinic, established the Department of Physical Education, set up an elementary school as a practice school for prospective teachers and secured approval for what much later would become the School of Graduate Studies.

In 1919 the College of Commerce and Finance replaced the School of Commerce, Finance and Journalism. The journalism program was returned to the College of Liberal Arts and remained there as a separate department until the establishment in 1962 of the School of Journalism. Also, it was under President Holmes that the need for student residences was recognized and emphasized as a necessity.

In 1922, when Daniel Walter Morehouse (1922-41) began his tenure as president, the university was at a critical crossroad. To meet demands of a growing student enrollment, new student residences and classroom facilities were built. A Phi Beta Kappa chapter was established on campus.

As the university celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1931, the country was in the midst of the Great Depression, the effects of which were felt on campus as well. All was not bleak, however, and there were some unexpected gifts. In 1934 Carl Weeks offered the university his residence, known as Salisbury House, for use as the home of the Fine Arts College. Today, Salisbury House is the headquarters for the Iowa State Education Association. In 1937 Cowles Library, a gift from the Gardner Cowles Foundation, was marked by the initial ceremony of groundbreaking at commencement time. In 1966 a \$1.7 million addition to the original Cowles Library tripled its size, making it a facility capable of meeting the needs of a modern academic community.

Significant during President Morehouse's administration was the further development of graduate work which had existed since 1883 with the granting of the first master's degree. At the beginning of the 1936-37 academic year, the Graduate Division (now the school of Graduate Studies) was organized and necessary attention was given to extending the list of master's degrees in professional fields. Previously, the Master of Arts degree

had been officially conferred through the College of Liberal Arts.

Following President Morehouse's death in 1941, the responsibility for leading the university through the chaotic period of World War II fell to the administration of President Henry Harmon (1941-64). Once again numerous academic, administrative, and developmental changes took place. New and more vigorous policies governing selection and admission of students were established; the Office of the Dean of Students (now incorporated in the Office of Student Life) was created in 1945; a Community College, now known as the College of Continuing Education, offering evening educational programs for adults was established in 1946.

With the demobilization in 1944-45, the tide of students returning to campuses across America was keenly felt. At Drake, it began modestly in 1944-45 with a gain of 161 and peaked in 1949-50 with a gain of 658. Between 1946 and 1966, 16 new buildings designed by distinguished architects including Eliel and Eero Saarinen, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Harry Weese and Associates and Brooks, Borg and Skiles were constructed on the campus. The structures have brought national attention to the Drake University campus.

Under the leadership of President Paul F. Sharp, the period 1966-71 was characterized by rapid growth and development. Library resources increased by more than 50 percent. The size and quality of the faculty increased. New forms of university governance were instituted providing for greater participation by members of the university community. New undergraduate and graduate programs were instituted. To support these developments the Centennial Development Program was launched.

In 1971 the American Republic Student Health Center and the Dial Center for Computer Science were dedicated.

After an interim committee guided the university for a year, Dr. Wilbur C. Miller assumed responsibility as president in July 1972. During the 1970s, doctoral programs in

education and English were approved and started. The Harmon Fine Arts center, which houses the College of Fine Arts was formally opened in the fall of 1972, and the Olmsted Center was completed and opened in 1974.

The largest gift in the history of higher education in Iowa was announced in the spring of 1973. The Olin Foundation of New York City provided a \$3,263,000 grant to Drake University for the Olin Hall of Biological Science, a four-story building opened in 1975.

A new Law School classroom building, Harold G. Cartwright Hall, was completed in 1976. The Master of Arts degree in Journalism and Master of General Studies degree were approved and started in 1976. The Bell Center for Physical Education and Recreation opened in late 1977. In 1980 the Aliber Foundation announced a major gift to Drake University making possible the construction of Aliber Hall, the new College of Business Administration building which opened for classes in the fall of 1982.

Just as the university founders did, the present university community faces many challenges. It must continue to provide a quality education for an ever-changing society while confronting the demands placed on major universities for continued growth through expanding programs and curricula.

Meeting these challenges is the university's goal; realizing these goals is its latest ambitious undertaking.

This section was prepared by Drake University for inclusion in its 1984-85 general catalog; permission for its use in this work is gratefully acknowledged.

Further information on the history of Drake University can be found in Charles Blanchard, *History of Drake University: Building for the Centuries* (Des Moines: Drake University, 1931); Charles J. Ritchey, *Drake University through 75 Years: 1881-1956* (Des Moines: Drake University 1956); and *In Celebration of a Century: Drake University 1881-1981* (Des Moines: Drake University, 1980).

II

From Secret Beginnings



F. M. Drake: unarticulated opposition.

It may never be specifically known what General Francis Marion Drake—Civil War hero, Iowa governor, criminal lawyer, banker, railroad tycoon, and most notably namesake and chief benefactor of the university—thought of social fraternities and sororities. Some early sources would appear to indicate that Drake's generosity was conditioned upon a prohibition against the operation of Greek-letter social societies on the campus.¹ Ironically, the first enduring local fraternity at the university was established within one month of General Drake's death in the fall of 1903.²

In spite of the intrigue involved in such a hypothesis, it is doubtful that General Drake alone desired that the university function free of the influences of fraternities and

sororities; nearly two decades after his death, campus Greek-letter social groups remained unable to receive complete sanction. Rather, it is more likely that the intolerance directed toward fraternities and sororities during the first 40 years of Drake's history was a reflection of the values and beliefs held by the founding fathers of the university, as well as their early successors.

The common denominator among the men responsible for the establishment and initial administration of Drake University was their membership in the Disciples of Christ Church. Founded in 1809, the church in many ways resembled a progressive movement. A major influence upon its ideology were the writings of John Locke, particularly those works pertaining to the freedom of thought.³ Additionally, the Disciples of Christ embraced Jacksonian Democracy, a type of frontier egalitarianism which favored absolute political and social equality. Education was identified by the church as a means of preserving religious ideals and maintaining morality, and with these priorities in mind the Disciples of Christ embarked upon the establishment of a network of colleges. Allegedly, by 1885 the church had been responsible for organizing some 54 institutions of higher learning across the country.⁴

The education offered at Drake University during its infancy was indicative of the beliefs of the Disciples of Christ and was marked by a high level of student discipline. The institution's first catalog included "The Laws of Drake University," which required students "to be diligent in study" and "punctual in attendance," in addition to prohibiting:

profanity, the desecration of the Lord's day, gambling, all intoxicating drinks, [the] visiting of any saloon, billiard room, or any other place of improper resort, [and] whatever else is inconsistent with good order, good taste, and good morals.⁵

Immediately following the university's first registration session, its students met to organ-

ize an on-campus Sunday school, which began meeting on September 25, 1881.⁶ Within a decade, six literary societies—Athenian, Berean, Philomathian, Alethian, Signet, and Law—were fully functional, providing the Drake student with the opportunity to engage in philosophical, political, literary, and educational discourse outside the classroom.

Largely incompatible with this regimen of campus life was the popularly-held concept of fraternities and sororities, which were contemptibly referred to as “secret societies.” Campus opinion on the subject was articulated in an editorial appearing in the April 1884 *Drake Delphic*, which stated that

COLLEGE SECRET SOCIETIES—we take no part in the cry against these societies simply because they are secret. Their secrecy does not hurt them. They are a curse, however, to every institution that has them. We know they pretend to have benevolent purposes, such as encouraging high scholarship and providing good company for their members, and doubtless, they sometimes do some good; but we speak of them in general.

A student may be ever so worthy in character yet if he lacks money or makes no show or spread of himself the secret societies regard him of no consequence and treat him as a barbarian in society matters.

In the literary societies and in the class the fraternities boys vote for their brethren simply because they are brethren. Their aim is to give every thing having any honor attached to it to one of their own members.

Drake University is fortunate in not having any of these secret societies. Notwithstanding the faculty's prohibition, efforts will likely be made to establish them here; for they exist in many schools with hostile faculties.

If any such efforts are made we hope and believe they will fail.⁷

Such an effort was in fact made during the 1890-91 school year. Charles M. Cathcart '96, transferred to Drake University in the fall of 1890 from Cornell College, where he had been initiated into the national fraternity Sigma Nu. Anxious to extend his fraternity to Drake University, Cathcart brought together four other students which, on April 15, 1891, became Beta Delta chapter of Sigma Nu. In granting the group a charter, the national fraternity was aware of the anti-fraternity sentiment which existed at Drake but felt that the prohibition would not be enforced if actually put to a test. Beta Delta enjoyed an early momentum, operating *sub rosa* yet succeeding in initiating a number of campus leaders.

The results of the May 1891 *Delphic* election enabled Sigma Nu to gain control of the student newspaper, and during the following school year the fraternity's membership grew to 13 men. However, some unaffiliated students began to sense that there was evil afoot, and upon discovering the existence of Sigma Nu they determined that

if this order be allowed to live, similar orders would be necessary to overcome its absolutism, and the entire studentship would be driven into one or another.⁸

The anti-fraternity forces spread the discovery of Sigma Nu's presence about the campus, resulting in the defeat of the fraternity's candidates in the 1892 *Delphic* election. Sigma Nu, which came to the realization that its existence would not be tolerated and that standing alone it could not alter the attitude of the student body, passed out of existence one year later.

Interestingly, no formal action was taken on the part of the university administration in regard to Sigma Nu, its demise having come about as a result of negative campus opinion. While it would have appeared that the question of fraternities was an issue which ultimately rested upon the discretion of the students, later events would demonstrate that Drake was prepared to enforce the edict against Greek-letter social societies in the event that informal forces failed to do so.

Following the dissolution of Sigma Nu, there was no mention of or any attempts to organize social fraternities for nearly a decade. Then, on October 1, 1902, “the matter of permitting the organization of fraternities in the university, and especially in the law school, was brought up for consideration and discussion”⁹ by the Drake University Board of Trustees. Two students presented a petition for the establishment of a fraternity in the Law School, as well as a proposed constitution for the organization; they were joined by Dean C. C. Cole, who argued the relative advantages and disadvantages. “After an extended discussion,”¹⁰ the university, for the first time, formally stated its position on fraternities by announcing:

Resolved, that in accordance with the well-known policy of the founders of Drake University, and of its board of trustees, the acting chancellor [Hill M. Bell] is instructed to notify the deans of the different departments of the university that it is contrary to the policy of the university to permit the organization or maintenance of fraternities in any department.¹¹

Among those taking part in the unanimous

vote against the establishment of fraternities on campus were Francis Marion Drake and Hill M. Bell, who first taught at Drake in 1888, was named president and acting chancellor of the university in September 1902. Repeatedly during his administration, which ended in 1918, Bell would be plagued by the fraternity issue. He subsequently complained that "every year we have fraternities and sororities organized, and every year it is necessary for the president to explain the attitude of the university toward these organizations."¹²

On August 10, 1904, the Drake University Board of Trustees enacted a set of bylaws to supplement the school's articles of incorporation, which had been drafted in 1881. Included in the enactment was a codification of the position which had been taken as to Greek-letter social societies two years earlier: "no Greek letter fraternity or other student fraternal secret organizations shall be organized in the university or any of its departments."¹³ The bylaws were reprinted in Drake's catalog and student handbook, ensuring that all those concerned would be placed on notice regarding the acceptability of fraternities on campus.

Yet some remained unknowledgeable of the bylaws, unintentionally or otherwise. In 1904 the Dental College, which had been established in 1901, undertook the organization of a professional fraternity; when the prohibition was drawn to its attention shortly thereafter, the college abandoned the project.¹⁴ Slightly more than a year later, in

December 1905, a group of Drake women founded Gamma Gamma Gamma, "a very conservative fraternity patterned after the fraternities in the larger Eastern schools."¹⁵ When President Bell learned of its existence several weeks later, the group's members were told that they "could not meet and hold secret initiations and still retain their membership in the classes at school."¹⁶ Gamma Gamma Gamma, like those before it, acquiesced.¹⁷

During the summer of 1906 Hill M. Bell, in his annual report, praised the anti-fraternity attitude of the Drake student body, observing that "they have always, with the best spirit imaginable, conformed to the ruling of the board."¹⁸ Bell went on to state, "we have at present no fraternities and no sororities, and, so far as I know, there is no particular desire on the part of the students for them."¹⁹ Little did Bell realize that a sorority, Epsilon Tau Sigma, had been successfully functioning on campus since October 15, 1903, and was even included in the 1906 edition of the university annual, *The Quax*.²⁰ What would come as an even greater surprise to the president was that slowly yet consistently student opinion on the question of fraternities was changing. The social life of Drake was awakening; in a matter of months it would become clear that Greek-letter social organizations were both wanted and needed, and if the university was to continue to stand in the way of their establishment, student inventiveness would discover the means to circumvent the prohibition.

¹In an April 29, 1918 letter to the national president of Delta Gamma, a member of the Drake local sorority Alpha Rho Omega stated that "Drake University has never had national sororities . . . on account of a rule against it made by a gentleman who loaned the university money."

The Drake local fraternity Sigma Beta Kappa, which attended Sigma Alpha Epsilon's 1920 St. Louis convention, was asked "whether any persons who have endowed [Drake University] have been anti-fraternity men." The Sigma Beta Kappa delegate replied "General Drake." "The Phi Alpha of Sigma Alpha Epsilon," February 1921, p. 104.

²Following a prolonged illness, F. M. Drake died in Centerville, Iowa on November 20, 1903. The local sorority Epsilon Tau Sigma became the first Greek-letter social society to be founded at Drake University on October 15, 1903.

³Charles J. Ritchey, *Drake University Through 75 Years: 1881-1956* (Des Moines: Drake University, 1956), pps. 13-35.

⁴Ibid, p. 25.

⁵The "laws" also prohibited "lounging around town" and "all excessive gallantry."

⁶This is not to necessarily insinuate that in its early days Drake operated as some type of ultra-religious community. It is doubtful that fraternities were opposed on the grounds of being anti-Christian; several Disciples' colleges had welcomed Greek-letter social organizations onto their campuses even before Drake was founded.

⁷A similar editorial was published in the April 1889 "Drake Delphic."

⁸"The Drake Delphic," May 1894.

⁹Minutes, Drake University Board of Trustees, October 1, 1902.

¹⁰Id.

¹¹Id. It was thus appropriate that when the national law fraternities Delta Theta Phi and Phi Alpha Delta were established in the Drake College of Law in 1921, both groups named their chapters "Cole."

¹²"The President's Annual Report," *The Drake University Catalog* (1906), p. 8.

¹³Art. XIV, sec. 2.

¹⁴In October 1908 Drake University obtained the Keokuk College of Dentistry to replace its Dental College, which had been discontinued in 1906. Psi Omega, a national dental fraternity, placed a chapter at Keokuk in 1904. Although the charter of the chapter, which was named Beta Psi, was not withdrawn until 1909, it is unclear if Psi Omega ever functioned at Drake; a news story appearing in the July 30, 1909 "Des Moines Daily Capital" intimates that it in fact did.

¹⁵"The Des Moines Daily Capital," January 11, 1906.

¹⁶*Id.*

¹⁷However, the group did continue as the Denis Club, an organization whose exact nature is unknown. The Denis Club appears to have dissolved in 1906.

¹⁸*The Drake University Catalog* (1906), p. 8.

¹⁹*Id.*

²⁰Technically, Epsilon Tau Sigma first appeared in the 1907 edition of *The Quax*, which covered the 1905-06 school year. This somewhat confusing arrangement was due to the fact that for a number of years the annual was compiled and published by the junior class, who used as the volume number their future year of graduation.

III

Social Clubs . . . or Social Fraternities?



The name game: introductory page from the fraternity-sorority section of the 1911 *Quax*.

The years 1903-08 marked a period of innovation at Drake University. The Office of the Registrar was created. Extensive construction was undertaken, with buildings housing the Medical College, Conservatory of Music, Law School, and university library erected; a central heating plant was built, and Drake's first stadium was dedicated. Varsity athletics became a part of the Missouri Valley Conference, and the College of Education was formally instituted. Perhaps most notable was the university's severance of formal ties with the Disciples of Christ Church.

But progress is never without its costs, and along with the increasing growth of the cam-

pus, the university's enrollment, and the national prestige of Drake came a student body which was far less conservative and more socially aware than its predecessors. Specifically, there was a decreased opposition on the part of students to the establishment of Greek-letter social societies, and during this interval the organizations began their continuing existence on campus. The first Greek-letter social organization formed was the sorority Epsilon Tau Sigma (1903), which was followed by other women's groups: Iota Alpha Omega (1906), Beta Chi Upsilon (1907), Omega Delta (1907), Gamma Delta Phi (1907), and Alpha Gamma Tau (1908). Drake's first fraternities included Gamma Sigma Kappa (1906), Tau Psi (1907), and Delta Chi (1907), which later changed its name to Chi Delta in deference to the national fraternity of the same name. A decade following the establishment of the first such organization, a total of 16 local fraternities and sororities were operating at Drake University.

While these organizations made no attempt to deny their existence as social societies, members were discreet in maintaining the secrecy of their fraternal nature. The Greek-letter name of each organization was privy to its members; publicly, the societies utilized English equivalents (resulting in, for example, E.T.S. and G.S.K.) in order to shield their actual identity. Yet in spite of these attempted safeguards, anyone involved with the university at the time with normal powers of observation would have ascertained the presence of "certain societies in existence at Drake which suggest fraternities [and] also girls' societies which suggest sororities . . . the initials . . . strangely enough, correspond to Greek letters."²¹ Why the university failed to investigate the actual character of the societies is open to speculation, but there are a number of possible reasons behind the failure of Drake's administration to do so. Previously, the university had depended upon voluntary compliance with the anti-fraternity edict, which had resulted

in a campus-wide sentiment against their establishment; with the change in student attitude, this protection was no longer available. President Bell, while adamantly opposed to Greek-letter social organizations, was preoccupied with building a competent faculty and enhancing the academic environment of the university.²² Additionally, the dean of women, Mary Carpenter, tended to passively support the establishment of sororities in spite of the trustees' prohibition, and the position of dean of men was not created by the university until January 19, 1911.

By early 1908 it had become so apparent that the functional equivalent of fraternities and sororities were present on campus that the university could no longer deny their existence. As a result of a fraternity social function, which allegedly constituted "the first formal party ever held in conjunction with Drake University," a faculty committee was appointed "to ferret out the matter" of the existence of Greek-letter social societies.²³ Drake faculty, composing the University Council, met on the evening of January 27, 1908 to consider the issue; following an impassioned speech by University Chaplain Charles S. Medbury which contended that fraternities were destroying social democracy on campus, the council went on record as "absolutely prohibiting the giving of dances, card parties or any other kindred function by any organization of the university or connected with it."²⁴ The university was hopeful that the resolution would immediately and permanently inhibit the functioning of the social societies, but in actuality the faculty had overestimated the willingness of the societies to submit to authority. The next day fraternity and sorority representatives held an "indignation meeting," where the organizations concluded that they were "not willing to admit that Drake authorities have the right or the power to prohibit things of this kind."²⁵ One sorority was so bold as to conduct a "theatre party" that afternoon, while other organizations publicly announced their plans for future indiscretions. The social potential of the university had come to be realized, and those partaking in it refused to accede to the faculty ruling. Many of Drake's fraternity and sorority members had belonged to similar organizations while attending West High School in Des Moines, and were reminiscent of the city's inability to rid the classrooms of social societies; others were cognizant of Iowa State College's long and unsuccessful attempt to prevent the operation of such organizations. In essence, the fraternities and sororities were secure in

adopting their position, having realized that "if the faculty starts out to put an end to these social functions they and the whole Des Moines police force will be kept busy as sleuths,"²⁶ and this was not about to happen.

Thus the dancing, poker, and other frivolity continued. Not that social diversions were the complete preoccupation of fraternity men and women, as such events were rarely staged more than once a month. In many instances, to completely thwart the faculty resolution, "the alumni members willingly assumed sponsorship and invited the resident students to attend as their guests."²⁷ Adding to the university's indignation over the total disregard of its policy was the fact that fraternities were becoming increasingly popular and powerful through their domination of student publications, athletics, debate, and all other activities; the situation was such that "it would be possible to go through the list of fraternity men and show that each is filling a large place in the university."²⁸ At the close of the 1907-08 school year, the photographs of seven "secret societies" could be found in the college annual; a semester later, *The Delphic* began running the "Things Social" column, which announced upcoming fraternity and sorority social events.

As aptly stated by the Drake historian Charles Ritchey, the time had arrived where "realizing that no broom could sweep back the pressing tide, the board decided to ride the whitecaps and thus ignore the flood."²⁹ Fraternities and sororities would continue to be prohibited as such, but "social clubs" possessing many of the attributes of Greek-letter social organizations would be tolerated. In making the allowance for the social clubs on February 9, 1909, the Drake University Board of Trustees enacted a series of regulations effecting the organizations, which included provisions requiring that

Each club must have a distinct name other than the unrelated letters of some alphabet.³⁰

Each club is open in the sense that no pledging of candidates for membership nor formal initiation is permitted. Nor shall any club member thereof commit any indiscretion toward any other person or persons involving personal indignity, insult, humiliation, or public exposure or notoriety injurious to the club, the candidate, or the university.

Members of the clubs are not to wear pins or badges having letters or words inscribed upon them, except that it is permissible to have the complete name of the club inscribed upon the pin or badge.

Clubs are not permitted to own or lease club houses, but responsible householders may arrange to take into their homes members of a certain club only.

Each club must have as an honorary member someone who is a member of one of the faculties of the university.

None but students in actual attendance at the university shall be considered as active members and only active members shall hold office or have voting power in the club.

A student member of a club leaving the university may continue to be recognized as an honorary member.

Other rules and regulations for the government of the clubs may be enacted and enforced at any time.

New clubs may be organized under these rules by the consent of the president of the university.

Students violating these rules, either in letter or spirit, are expected to withdraw from the university.³¹

These rules, which emphasized form over substance, were easily enough complied with by Drake fraternities and sororities. Fraternities conformed to the vowel requirement by adopting imaginative names; G.S.K. became the Golden Skull Klub, Delta Chi assumed the identity of the Dirk's Club, and Tau Psi became publicly known as the Tux Club. The sororities were less creative in their approach to compliance with the regulation, with most simply adding a letter or two to their outlawed initial names; E.T.S. becoming, for example, Etsis, while J.A.O. adopted Jaos, and A.G.T. became Agate. All organizations still used their formal Greek-letter names in affairs between members, while pledging and initiation ceremonies continued to be conducted behind closed doors. The wearing of fraternity badges, a practice which was begun by Epsilon Tau Sigma before 1905, was likewise discreetly continued. The prohibition against property ownership was somewhat superfluous as none of the organizations had yet to acquire the capital to make such an investment; many groups, taking advantage of absentee ownership in the Drake area, did in fact lease housing. Requiring the social clubs to include in their memberships a faculty member may have actually strengthened the organizations; the local sororities in particular sought out professors who had been undergraduate members of national organizations, which resulted in the refinement of internal operations and an increased emphasis on national affiliation.

The University Council continued to prohibit social functions, and the students continued to unabashedly ignore the directive.

Although following the enactment of the social club regulations the university could argue that fraternities and sororities remained forbidden, the board of trustees had in actuality established a set of parameters under which the organizations "flourished thereafter without serious handicap."³² No one could have doubted that the club regulations were nothing more than a temporary expedient; having gained this significant concession, fraternities and sororities were bound to continue to pressure the administration until their complete recognition had been obtained. President Bell, oblivious as to what was in store, stated in his 1909 annual report that the "social clubs are regulated by adherence to strict rules which they have acquiesced in and which I believe they are trying to obey in every particular."³³

The widening of student interest in fraternities and sororities resulted in the establishment of four more organizations at Drake University during the 1909-10 school year. The sole fraternity, Sigma Beta Kappa, was founded in the spring of 1910 with membership initially limited to law students; in order to conform to the club regulations, the organization adopted the public name of the Sword and Balance Klub. The three sororities, all of which were established in the fall of 1909, were Iota Delta Omicron (Idono), Kappa Kappa Upsilon (the Kiku Club), and Zeta Phi (Zatis).

In early 1911 the Office of the Dean of Men was created. Appointed to fill the position was W. F. Barr, who concurrently served as dean of the College of Education. Barr's first report as dean of men, which was compiled in the summer of 1911, contained the strongest language in support of the "social clubs" and their activities that had been stated by a Drake faculty member thus far. The report stated that

On the part of many it is thought that these clubs are social only. This belief is erroneous, as each of the clubs undertakes to be helpful to its members in matters of scholarship, in matters of business relationship and in character formation. The club men are as much interested in the university as are any other equal number of men in the institution. The spirit of the club men, so far as I have been able to become acquainted with them, is that of earnest loyalty to right ideals and right actions.

The clubs are not irreligious. On the contrary, some of the most loyal, active workers

in the Y.M.C.A. and the church belong to the clubs. They are simply fraternal organizations for the purpose of harmonious, general uplift, and are to be encouraged. I hope to see some new ones started next year. There is much that they can do for the welfare of the school as well as for that of the members individually.³⁴

Barr also indicated that he had no major objection to dances and card parties when "properly chaperoned," as such undertakings were "much to be preferred over the public dance halls." Additionally, Barr perceived that there was "no reason for continuing" the prohibition against the use of Greek-letter names, explaining that he failed "to see any valid reason against permitting the rise of a club with any reasonable and respectable name." However, Barr did go on record as opposing the establishment of national fraternities at Drake, for the reason that "the governing power is vested in a body entirely outside the school."

Much of Barr's sentiment was shared by his female counterpart, Dean of Women Elizabeth W. Jordan. In a May 20, 1911 *Drake Daily Delphic* editorial entitled "Women's Organizations—Scope and Purpose," Jordan spoke favorably of Drake's early sororities by asserting that

It may be said in behalf of social clubs that they give an opportunity to form lasting friendships more speedily and that delinquent and wayward students can frequently be reached more effectively by the members of the society than by the faculty. Concerted action is easy because of the unity that exists in the club. Club girls look well to the care of members who are ill. In club houses presided over by women of ability and character the club girls are sure of love, friendship and sympathy as they would be in their own homes. The club forms a valuable service in keeping a girl interested in her college . . . some objections may be made to clubs, and justly too; but in every case the benefits of these societies must largely depend upon the character of their leaders.

However, the university was not yet prepared to defer to the professional judgement of the deans of men and women as to the desirability of the "social clubs." On October 19, 1911, the university undertook what would prove to be its final significant attempt to "chill" fraternity organization and activity on campus. A strict set of regulations were issued, which provided:

No club shall issue invitations to social functions which have on the invitations the word "dancing" or the word "card." If the alumni issue an invitation of this kind, it

shall be construed as though the invitation were issued by the club itself.

Programs of dances to which members of the club may be invited by individuals must contain no reference whatever to the club itself.

Clubs will be responsible for using other than their official names in the city papers, on their stationery, or in connection with banners, streamers, or pennants. The rule requiring clubs to have such names was made seriously and must be observed accordingly.

Faculty honorary members of clubs are held responsible for the conduct of the club, and of the individuals of the clubs in connection therewith.

No club will be recognized as a university organization if its alumni persist in doing things forbidden to the club itself.

Any club failing to conform to the rules and regulations promulgated for their guidance shall cease to be recognized as a university organization.³⁵

Under the former faculty ruling dancing and other social functions were strictly prohibited, but considerable loopholes permitted circumvention through alumni sponsorship of events. The new regulations, while permitting social exercises, eliminated the opportunity for outside sponsorship and thus severely limited extracurricular entertainment. Uncertain of how to bypass university authority on the matter, fraternities and sororities begrudgingly complied. A staff member of *The Daily Delphic* attended a subdued fraternity function following the enactment of the supplemental club regulations, and sardonically observed:

A program of "dances" was enjoyed with a few modifications from the usual custom. Since the "light fantastic" itself is forbidden late popular games such as Authors, Checkers, Dominoes, Flinch, Winkum, Tin Tin and Button Button, were played during the numbers and were heartily enjoyed by all. Postoffice, the good old game our fathers used to play, was introduced as an Extra-Extra and received numerous encores.

"Delicious discouragements" were served in the intermission and although all who attended this enjoyable function have so far refused to divulge the nature of the stimulants served, it is rumored that weak tea and Uneeda Biscuits headed the list.

Black was the predominating color in the decorative scheme. Filmy crepe bordered the Greek-symbolized pennants and banners, and wherever there lay an unrelated letter of the alphabet, was a black bow or a spot of

ink. In one corner of the large room were piled relics of the initiations of the past—a wheelbarrow, tin pan, cap and bells—with silken pillow covers, and discarded stationery, embellished with the colors and symbols of the mysterious forbidden “fraternity.” Dance programs, dance favors and cards lay in the exhibit, all covered with the crepe of mourning.³⁶

Perhaps realizing that individually they could not circumvent or reverse the most recent and harshest university ruling, in the fall of 1911 Drake’s fraternities and sororities organized governing groups to promote their mutual interests. The women’s societies established the Inter-Club Conclave, which had first been conceived of in 1909, and the four men’s fraternities formed the Inter-Club Council. In addition to providing a forum to discuss methodology for achieving the open recognition of fraternities, the councils enacted rules regarding scholarship and membership recruitment.

The “social clubs” continued to strive for acceptance by the university community through providing leadership in class and campus activities, and by outwardly complying with what had come to be a myriad of rules governing their operations. In actuality, pledgings, initiations, and the use of Greek-letter names and insignia continued in private settings; social activity had resumed its prior level, as the campus’ fraternities and sororities once again realized that “the ability of any authoritative body in any institution is taxed to the limit to suppress a thing of this kind.”³⁷

During the 1911-12 school year, two additional fraternities were organized at Drake University: Kappa Lambda, which was publicly known as the Colonial Club, and the Gauge and Gavel Club (which did not have a secret Greek-letter name), an organization that limited its membership to college Masons. The establishment of Phi Gamma Lambda (alias the Pagoda Club) in the fall of 1912 brought the total number of fraternities operating on the Drake campus to seven; there were nine such groups for women. The deans of men and women continued to lend support to the activities and purpose of the “social clubs”; in mid-1912 Dean W. F. Barr reported that

The spirit of the club men individually is that of earnest loyalty to right ideals and right actions. In my relationship with these

organizations, I have been impressed with the fact that, while they are looked upon by some as being too exclusive, they are in fact doing a most excellent work of character that is not done, and probably can not be done by other organizations of the university. There are no organizations in the university more loyal to its interests, more earnest in its support, than these clubs.³⁸

Similarly, Dean of Women Elizabeth Jordan praised the contributions of the groups, and urged that the university lift the restrictions upon their activities:

Next to the academic, I hold that student organization is a most important educational asset in the college life, and it is my belief that the college authorities do not all see its educational significance. College life is beset with all kinds of inherent difficulties which afford ample opportunity for students to work out problems, situations, and overcome difficulties The government that must come through these student organizations must not be hedged about by limitations or cramped by rules and regulations. The only external power than can be relied upon to help much is the influence of the faculty members to whom students go naturally and unreservedly for advice and assistance. It is the nature of the average college student to want to blaze his own way.³⁹

There was an increasing sense within the university that the “social clubs,” rather than being undemocratic, were in fact promoting student democracy through self-government.⁴⁰ Even President Bell was beginning to change his attitude, stating that “the social clubs have prospered and that from their prosperity benefits have come to the university.”⁴¹ The men’s groups, perhaps believing that the thaw had finally begun, took a brave step in including coats-of-arms and pledge pins with their group pictures in the 1912 edition of the university annual.

During the 1912-13 school year, the Inter-club Council and the Inter-Club Conclave became the Men’s Pan Hellenic and the Women’s Panhellenic, respectively, thus conforming in name to fraternity and sorority governing bodies on campuses where such organizations were recognized. The “social club” label, which implied that the purpose of the groups was to entertain and to be entertained, was becoming tiresome to Drake’s affiliated students. Their restlessness was soon to come to an end, however, as the masquerade was almost over.

²¹“The Des Moines Register and Leader,” January 15, 1908.

²²As previously noted President Bell, in his 1906 annual report, stated his belief that “we have at

present no fraternities and sororities." Surprisingly Bell failed to reassess this erroneous estimation after a 1907 hazing incident where four members of Tau Psi "made merry for a few hours with a liberal arts freshman." Drake authorities failed to make the connection with possible fraternity pledging activities, terming the incident as "nothing more than a college prank and not of serious nature." "The Des Moines Register and Leader," September 27, 1907.

²³"The Des Moines Register and Leader," January 15, 1908.

²⁴"The Des Moines Register and Leader," January 28, 1908.

²⁵Id.

²⁶Id.

²⁷Ritchey, p. 170.

²⁸"The Des Moines Register and Leader," January 28, 1908.

²⁹Ritchey, p. 169.

³⁰This requirement had actually been imposed following the Christmas recess of 1908.

³¹Minutes, Drake University Board of Trustees, February 9, 1909.

³²Ritchey, p. 169.

³³*Drake University Catalog* (1908-09), p. 7. The "social clubs" first appeared in the publication one year later.

³⁴*The Drake University Catalog* (1910-11), pps. 121-22.

³⁵"The Drake Daily Delphic," October 20, 1911.

³⁶"The Drake Daily Delphic," October 21, 1911.

³⁷"The Des Moines Register and Leader," January 15, 1908.

³⁸"The Annual Report of the President," *The Drake University Catalog* (1911-12), pps. 6-7.

³⁹Ibid, p. 22.

⁴⁰An ironic contrast to the need for "social democracy on campus" which had prevailed several years earlier was the university's endorsement of the establishment of two honor societies in 1912: Helmet and Spurs (men) and Sieve and Shears (women). Membership in the societies—which eventually became chapters of Omicron Delta Kappa and Mortar Board, respectively—was limited to a select few who had distinguished themselves in scholarship, leadership, campus involvement, and/or athletics.

⁴¹*The Drake University Catalog* (1911-12), p. 3.

The Great Concession



The new order: during the mid-1910s, Drake students firmly sought—and eventually obtained—university permission to operate full-fledged fraternities and sororities.

It was during the 1913-14 school year that Drake's fraternities and sororities finally achieved open recognition. As was the case with the gradual approval of the social clubs, this great concession on the part of the university consisted of a series of events rather than a single, momentous decision.

Prior to the commencement of the fall term, the Administrative Board of Student Organizations was established. Composed of the university president, the deans of men and women, the academic deans, and seven faculty members, the function of the board was "to control all student organizations."⁴² This innovation was significant in that it decentralized decision making affecting the "social clubs"; the faculty, which to a large extent had come to champion the cause of

fraternities and sororities, could now work toward their acceptance within the university. One of the board's earliest actions—which was undertaken on September 15, 1903 by its Committee on Social Functions—was to limit social club activities to Friday and Saturday evenings. Although the imposition of this rule might have been interpreted as a further restraint on fraternities and sororities, it was in fact a restatement of a practice which most organizations had long before adopted on their own accord. Additionally, the rule proved quite flexible; less than a week after its enactment, two women's groups who were involved in the recruitment of new members were permitted "to have an evening function apiece on nights other than Friday or Saturday."⁴³

Several other notable events occurred during the same month. On September 13, President Bell made a further indication that his position against fraternities was weakening when, while addressing a student assembly, "he spoke of the influence the [social] clubs might have for the progressiveness in Drake and expressed his belief that they were an important, if troublesome, feature of college life."⁴⁴ Less than a week later, the University Council met and abolished its prohibition against dancing and other social diversions, a rule which had been challenged since its inception in 1908. Interestingly, the faculty had initially voted to continue to rigorously enforce the edict, but upon further discussion, "the impracticability of the rule in question then made itself evident."⁴⁵

The "social clubs," after years of effort, had for all intents and purposes gained the seal of approval of the university; equally important was the fact that the groups could proceed to conduct social activities with only minimal intrusion from Drake authorities. In essence, the organizations differed from fraternities and sororities only in name.

Apparently, the university was cognizant of this fact. When several of the "social clubs" began publicly utilizing their Greek-letter names in late 1913, the administration

made no attempt to resist the move. These intrepid groups were soon joined by others, and by the conclusion of the 1913-14 school year the transformation was complete. Oddly enough, no documentation exists regarding the university's sanctioning of the use of Greek letters; the change from "social club" to "fraternity" appears to have simply happened, the great concession thus obtained with neither a bang nor a whimper.⁴⁶

The 1914 edition of the university annual included, for the first time, a fraternity and sorority section where groups proudly displayed their previously clandestine Greek-letter names. The same volume also contained a debate over the advantages of fraternities, the affirmative position being that

The real value of fraternity life is not on the surface, but is in the personal contact which fellows of different temperaments have with each other. When a young fellow who has gone to seed on athletics rubs up against a fellow who has done the same with his books, each by seeing his weaknesses gains a portion. With the ideals of the fraternity before him a man realizes that he has some twenty or thirty strong sympathetic men behind him who are continually spurring him on to great endeavors. Each man learns to do his share in helping his brother make good. When the alumni visit and ask their usual questions concerning the welfare of those who are training for forensics or athletics, what the scholarship is, why a certain man is not making good, each man cannot help taking his share to heart and doing his utmost for Drake.⁴⁷

The opponent to fraternities meanwhile asserted that

Ready-made suits, sometimes called Fraternities, and ready-made gowns, known as Sororities, are very frequently worn by college people. Nearly all of the colleges and universities carry these social clothes. If your social form is correct, not too boorish and not stupid, you may pay the price of time, freedom, development and individuality and wear the garment.

There is a distinct saving in many ways. You are carefully sheltered from any unkind blast by your Fraternity; you are nestled snug and warm in the confidential fold of your Sorority. Contentment, trust and social standing; all are yours.

But, truth should be the keynote of every institution of learning; culture, its motto, and development, its slogan. In so far as you are willing to compromise one whit, in your search for truth; in so far as you allow prescribed forms to dominate over innate refinement, and artificiality to set your stand-

ards of life for you, you are untrue to yourself and your school.

You are bowing to ready-made friends, holding up ready-made ideals, believing in ready-made truths.⁴⁸

The dispute between Greek and unaffiliated students, occasionally referred to as "frats" and "barbs," had begun.

Drake's fraternities and sororities had obtained their open recognition; yet their victory would not be complete until the final concession—university approval of affiliation with national organizations—was won. With this in mind, the groups continued to strive to lead and achieve. John L. Griffith, who was responsible for instituting the Drake Relays and the adoption of the bulldog as the university's athletic symbol, had succeeded W. F. Barr as dean of men in November 1913; like his predecessor, Griffith was supportive of the campus' fraternities, and was particularly grateful for their providing suitable housing for many Drake men, as a much-needed dormitory had yet to be constructed. Dean of Women Elizabeth Jordan offered further praise for the sororities, noting that "these organizations by providing clean, wholesome entertainments on and about the campus have done much to discourage too frequent attendance at moving picture shows and other forms of light entertainment."⁴⁹ Jordan also indicated that she was pleased Drake's sororities had suspended all social functions for a two-month interval, coinciding with a long-term visit by the Evangelist Billy Sunday to Des Moines in the latter part of 1914.⁵⁰

In December 1914 Alpha Rho Omega was organized as a social sorority for women enrolled in the College of Fine Arts; its membership was subsequently opened to students in all departments. Shortly after its establishment, Alpha Rho Omega became the tenth member of the Women's Panhellenic Council.

During the three years which followed, Drake university and its fraternities and sororities continued to prosper. While by 1917 the university had not changed its policy regarding affiliation with "national social fraternities," it did permit two national organizations to establish Drake chapters. 1917 marked the arrival of Kappa Delta Pi, a national education honor society, and Mu Phi Epsilon, a national professional music sorority.

The push for national affiliation was temporarily set aside when the United States entered World War I in the spring of 1917.

Many fraternity men enlisted immediately, while those who remained behind joined the Students' Army Training Corps. Initially it appeared that all fraternity activity would be prohibited as a result of an order issued by the United States War Department; however, a lobbying effort by the National Interfraternity Conference resulted in the government rescinding the ruling. Surprisingly, fraternity rush was conducted in the fall of 1917, and "all the fraternities expressed themselves pleased with the results."⁵¹ Extensive fundraising for the war effort was undertaken by Drake's fraternities and sororities: a number of groups donated money to purchase yarn for sweaters to be worn by the doughboys in France; Alpha Gamma Tau sold its silver tea service, and donated the proceeds to the purchase of surgical dressings; Beta Chi Upsilon revived its original musical *My Divinity*, which had first been staged in 1911, and presented the receipts to the Young Men's Christian Association War Fund; and Gamma Delta Phi surpassed all other campus organizations in contributing \$200 of the \$4,000 raised by Drake students for the Student Friendship War Fund. Additionally, many sorority members joined local Red Cross auxiliaries, where they rolled bandages and hemmed blankets.

In spite of the patriotic willingness of the students to assist in the war effort, the conflict itself had created numerous financial difficulties which interfered with the operation of the university. Drake faculty, who had for some time been battling for increased autonomy from the university's administration, became further agitated when, in the fall of 1917, a monetary crisis necessitated a reduction in their salaries. In the midst of this upheaval, President Bell could not be found; he had traveled to the East Coast in an attempt to secure emergency funds for the university. Although his trip proved to be a partial success, during his absence Bell apparently reached the decision that he could no longer lead Drake University. On February 20, 1918, he requested a year's leave of absence for rest; when the board of trustees failed to take immediate action on his request, Bell resigned as president on April 16, stating that he had done so for reasons of health.⁵² The loss to Drake was significant; although Bell had not always acted in the best interest of the fraternities and sororities on campus, he had ushered the university into the Twentieth Century, and had proven instrumental in building a faculty and educational institution which were among the finest in the Midwest. Appropriately, the

title of *president emeritus* was conferred upon Bell by the board of trustees.

On September 1, 1918, Arthur Holmes succeeded Hill M. Bell as president of Drake University. In addition to becoming the first chief executive of the university to hold a Ph.D. degree, Holmes was the first to hold membership in a national social fraternity; while teaching in Pennsylvania, he had been initiated into Theta Xi.⁵³ Holmes' fraternity membership immediately became a matter of common knowledge among the members of Drake's fraternities and sororities. And although it was hoped that his appointment would result in the approval of national affiliation, the students realized that the prospect could not again be raised until World War I had ended and the campus had reached some semblance of normalcy.

Coinciding with Holmes' installation as president was the assignment of a new dean of men, Daniel W. Morehouse. Morehouse graduated from Drake in 1900, and had taught astronomy, botany, and physics at the university since that time; in 1916, he had become faculty advisor to Gamma Sigma Kappa. In 1918, a new dean of women was also appointed, as Elizabeth Jordan had decided to undertake graduate studies in English. Chosen as her successor was Mary Carpenter Craig, who had previously served as Drake's first dean of women from 1901-08.⁵⁴

Meanwhile, the conflict abroad raged on. Drake's fraternities initially had not been significantly affected, but as their members continued to enlist or be drafted, housing was surrendered⁵⁵ and activities curtailed. The Men's Pan Hellenic Council held a series of meetings to discuss the feasibility of its member groups continuing to operate; on September 29, 1918, five of the six campus fraternities agreed to "abolish all individual fraternal activities," with the exception of business meetings, "in accordance with the government request that fraternal activities be done away with during the war."⁵⁶ The sole dissenter, Phi Gamma Lambda, was expelled from the Men's Pan Hellenic; however, several days later it followed the example of Drake's other fraternities.⁵⁷ An editorial appearing in the October 29, 1918 *Drake Delphic* urging sororities to likewise suspend their activities for the remainder of the war was largely unwarranted, as the women were already preoccupied with aiding the war effort in every possible way.

On November 11, 1918, World War I came to an end. A total of 614 Drake undergraduates and alumni had entered the service,

which included over three-fourths of the university's fraternity initiates. Eighteen men died in the conflict, five of whom were members of Greek-letter societies. Those fraternity men that returned to campus faced the tremendous task of rebuilding.

Reorganization proved not as difficult as originally thought due to a rise in enrollment and the generous assistance of alumni members. Within a matter of months it appeared as if the war had not resulted in any disruptive effects whatsoever. However, the war did in fact result in long-term detriment: some of those men who had served in the armed forces brought back with them a peculiar knowledge which they instilled in the fraternity. This knowledge—the “art” of hazing—would grow in variation and inner-organizational popularity to the point where it became perhaps the largest single criticism of fraternities. While Drake's fraternities had

historically exposed their pledges to minor forms of physical and mental embarrassment, the veterans supplemented such pre-initiation practices with their first-hand knowledge from the military of “hundreds of other tricks, some brutal, some unpleasant, some merely silly.”⁵⁸

Notwithstanding the drawbacks of the keen interest taken in hazing, Drake's fraternities, as well as its sororities, by 1919 were once again functioning as exemplary student organizations. Having resumed the management of most campus activities and obtaining as members Drake's most outstanding leaders, scholars, and athletes, the groups would soon argue that their accomplishments warranted the university's sanctioning of affiliation with national social fraternities. Surprisingly, the university would soon make this final concession, and with only a minimal amount of haggling.

⁴²Minutes, Drake University Board of Trustees, November 5, 1913. The trustee's official approval of the board—which had been in existence possibly as long as a year—may have represented a turning point whereas the trustees no longer cared to be burdened with the fraternity question.

⁴³“The Drake Daily Delphic,” September 19, 1913.

⁴⁴“The Drake Daily Delphic,” September 18, 1913.

⁴⁵“The Drake Daily Delphic,” September 23, 1913.

⁴⁶Unfortunately, the spring 1914 issues of “The Drake Daily Delphic,” which might provide some information on the subject, were not preserved.

⁴⁷*The Quax*, Drake University, 1915, p. 294. As stated above, the annual was originally distributed a year prior to the date given as its volume number.

⁴⁸*Ibid.*, p. 295.

⁴⁹“Annual Report of the President,” *The Drake University Catalog* (1913-14), p. 20. In 1912 the *Idle Hour*, a motion picture house, had opened near Drake.

⁵⁰In a similar vein, Jordan reported in the spring of 1916 that “the 198 members of the ten sororities gave \$175 to the Gingham Mission College for Women in China.”

⁵¹“The Drake Delphic,” October 10, 1917.

⁵²Ritchey, p. 149.

⁵³Holmes was either initiated into Theta Xi at the University of Pennsylvania, or at Pennsylvania State College. The national office of Theta Xi has been unable to clarify this ambiguity.

⁵⁴Craig had left Drake in 1908 to marry the university's third president, William Bayard Craig; upon his death in 1918, she returned. Interestingly, Craig was the daughter of George T. Carpenter, the university's first president, and a niece of Francis Marion Drake.

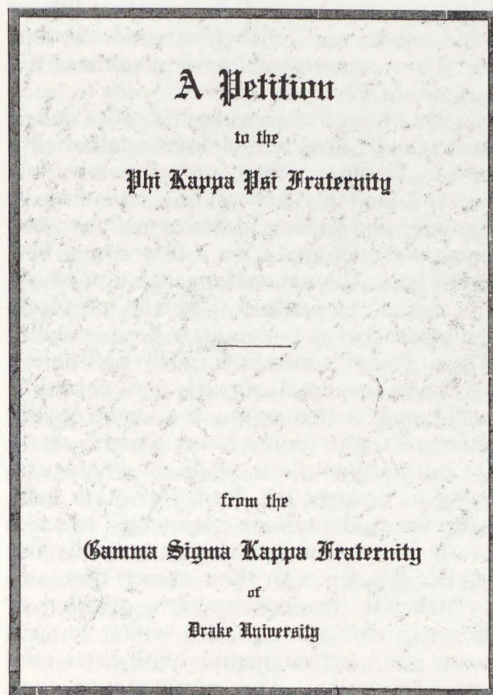
⁵⁵Most, if not all of Drake's fraternities discontinued the operation of residences following the spring of 1918 semester. Although many of their members remained on campus, those who had joined the Students' Army Training Corps were required to live in the Men's Gymnasium, which had been converted into barracks.

⁵⁶“The Drake Delphic,” October 1, 1918.

⁵⁷Phi Gamma Lambda explained that its reason for not immediately suspending fraternity activities was unrelated to the substance of the agreement, but instead a protest “of other undesirable features of the council found true in the past.” “The Drake Delphic,” October 3, 1918.

⁵⁸“The Des Moines Times-Delphic,” February 12, 1931, which documented a few of the many traditional hazing practices.

The Final Concession



Victory: the university's endorsement having been secured, Gamma Sigma Kappa submits the first petition by a campus group to a national fraternity, spring 1920.

The arrival of the spring 1919 semester brought with it a near-ideal set of circumstances under which the university could be approached on the question of national affiliation. The war was over; Drake's financial and enrollment picture was improving; fraternities and sororities had established themselves as an integral part of the campus; Hill M. Bell had resigned,⁵⁹ and was replaced with a president who was, in his own words, "a national fraternity man."⁶⁰

It was the women's groups that made the first move. In early April 1919 the Panhellenic Council appointed a committee to confer with President Arthur Holmes "and find out his opinions."⁶¹ In meeting with the committee, Holmes, in response to the question of permitting national fraternities and sorori-

ties on campus, stated that "the board of trustees will not consider a hypothetical case. The thing to do is to petition a national. When an answer is given to you, lay the matter before the board and the members will then act upon it."⁶² Holmes' posture, while certainly more amenable than that of his immediate predecessor, lacked an awareness of how extension was undertaken by a national fraternity or sorority. The vast majority of national organizations, as a preliminary matter, required an assurance that their entry onto a campus was both acceptable and welcomed before the establishment of a chapter could be approved. As a result of Holmes' unrealistic assessment of how the chartering process operated, at least one national organization initially discarded any notion of seriously considering Drake:

Dr. Holmes not wanting to act until he has a definite charter to bring before the board . . . makes the possibility of the entrance of nationals into Drake University seem very remote . . . [We] cannot consider entering a college unless the faculty endorse the petition and welcome the granting of a charter, and I feel certain that other nationals take the same stand.⁶³

Nonetheless, several national sororities, perhaps anticipating that in time the university would revise its position, informally conducted investigations of the fraternity field at Drake. Delta Gamma's extension chairman visited the campus as early as April 1919, and Kappa Alpha Theta's Des Moines alumnae carefully monitored the university situation; undoubtedly, other undocumented inspections took place. Similarly, Drake's fraternities and sororities were surveying national organizations to determine their chartering requirements, as well as their disposition toward the university. Campus sororities in particular embarked on letter writing campaigns, soliciting "information concerning the procedure for petitioning for a charter."⁶⁴

As both the national and campus groups developed an increasing interest in one another, frustration mounted. Holmes had

spoken his peace; the prohibition against national affiliation remained intact; and neither the national nor the Drake fraternities were in a position to initiate action. The influence of alumni assisted in breaking the impasse: mimeographed petitions endorsing national organizations were circulated and signed;⁶⁵ graduates, several of whom had become university trustees, began pressuring their *alma mater* to abandon the prohibition; and Greek alumni of other institutions who resided in Des Moines publicly espoused the benefits of national affiliation. Chief among these outside orators was the Hon. Lawrence DeGraff, a judge in the Polk County District Court and national president of Sigma Chi. DeGraff's ongoing deliberations with the university included an address delivered at a special assembly of Drake students held on February 10, 1920, where the esteemed judge stated that

[National] fraternities and sororities stand for and condemn the same things for which society stands for and condemns. The function is the same as that of the school itself: to send out broad-minded men and women. It is not the books read that makes an educated person . . . it is that spirit of friendship, or loyalty to the school and the fraternity, and of loyalty to the individual and society. The spirit of high ideals goes into the heart and soul. The fraternity teaches responsibility, smooths off the rough edges. It is a home.

The national organizations have strong, level-headed officials, persons interested in the interests, and welfare, and the future of all fraternities. The national government is strong.⁶⁶

DeGraff's comments further encouraged campus fraternity and sorority members, who were working to obtain the approval of the faculty and unaffiliated students. This approval having been obtained, on February 18, 1920 the Drake University Board of Trustees was presented with a petition "bearing the names of 79 percent of the students and sanctioned by all the department heads, and all the members of the faculty including the dean of men and the dean of women,"⁶⁷ which "could be measured in pounds more easily than in hundreds of names."⁶⁸ In view of this mandate for a change in policy, and in consideration of endorsement by a committee of the board and great numbers of Drake alumni, the "motion was made, seconded, and carried (unanimously) that national fraternities and sororities be permitted in Drake University."⁶⁹ This action by the board of trustees "came as a surprise to the

student body, which was prepared to exert the utmost pressure to see that the measure went through," and as a result, "impromptu jubilees were the order of the day."⁷⁰

Immediately, campus groups renewed or intensified contact with national organizations; Drake students felt a sense of urgency, as it was generally believed that "the chapter first installed in the university will undoubtedly have a decided advantage."⁷¹ The "race" among the women's groups was further intensified by a false rumor that "there could not be more than four nationals, and that the sororities would have to combine for that reason."⁷²

In an attempt to create some order out of the scramble, President Holmes established a set of guidelines which, unfortunately, further reflected his lack of understanding in the extension process. Local sororities were required to designate, on a first come, first served basis, the national organization which they desired to petition. The rule, presumably imposed so as to eliminate the possibility of two women's groups formally petitioning the same national sorority, in actuality heightened friction among the Drake organizations. Campus groups became highly secretive in their intentions, while simultaneously trying to uncover the desires of other local sororities; students were encouraged to make a rash decision, in an attempt to notify the dean of women with their choice first; and the national organizations were divested of their expertise in evaluating which campus group was most compatible with their own particular designs. The men's groups were not required to follow the "sign-up" rule, presumably due to the fact that there were half as many fraternities as there were sororities at Drake, while there were over twice the number of national fraternities than national sororities.⁷³ Additionally, the exclusion of fraternities from compliance with the regulation was consistent with the university's minimal supervision of the affairs of male students in general.

Holmes' guidelines further required that each national organization installing a chapter at Drake University agree to initiate at least two members of the faculty, in order to ensure alumni support and guidance for the campus organizations. This rule, viewed as an unnecessary imposition by the national organizations, was challenged and subsequently eliminated for all practical purposes by Holmes, who explained that

the intention of this ruling was to maintain in each chapter adult representatives who

would be able to advise the conduct of the fraternity affairs from the point of view of the university. As the requirement to have two faculty members did not seem feasible, we have modified it that two alumni graduates of Drake University could be substituted for the faculty members. In other words, we have not surrendered the principle but have modified the method.⁷⁴

While Drake University had clearly articulated the acceptability of national social fraternities and sororities, it did not apprise the National Interfraternity Conference nor the National Panhellenic Congress (now Conference) of this fact. Thus the word of the new fraternity field spread informally, and as it did, was greeted with mixed responses. National sororities which had for several years viewed Drake as possessing a strong potential for extension immediately renewed correspondence with campus women's groups; others undertook a cautious and skeptical investigation of the university, only to conclude that they were already over-committed to existing chapters within the state. Many national organizations completely dismissed the prospect of establishing a chapter at Drake due to the university's lack of national reputation and struggling endowment. By March 1920, the national sororities that had openly expressed a definite interest in the campus included Alpha Phi, Delta Gamma, Gamma Phi Beta, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and Pi Beta Phi. Aside from the personal sentiment of Judge DeGraff to establish a chapter of Sigma Chi at Drake, not a single national fraternity had indicated a desire to be represented at the university; this disinterest placed a tremendous burden of persuasion upon the men's groups, who concentrated upon preparing as thorough and as impressive petitions as possible during the spring semester of 1920.

Dean of Women Mary Carpenter Craig—to whom President Holmes had delegated the actual task of ensuring that the petitioning of national sororities went smoothly—became confused over the situation that had arisen, and sought guidance from national sorority alumnae residing in Des Moines. On April 6, 1920 area representatives of Alpha Phi, Delta Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Kappa Kappa Gamma met with Craig; the alumnae "went after the president and his silly rules"⁷⁵ and suggested more practical procedures for the transformation of local sororities into national chapters. Craig, who was not a sorority initiate and had attended Drake when social societies were still thought

of as "one of the most prolific sources of wrangling"⁷⁶ in the university, repeatedly took advantage of the alumnae's knowledge in the months which followed. Two women in particular—Bonnie Marshall, state chairman and Des Moines alumnae president of Kappa Alpha Theta, and Mary M. Rosemond, past national vice president of Delta Gamma—proved to be invaluable through their explanation of the chartering process to the Women's Panhellenic Council, and by offering advice to the various petitioning groups.

Throughout the spring of 1920 Drake's local sororities and the national organizations interested in the university entertained one another at various teas and luncheons, settings which provided great insight into the character of the respective groups. The Des Moines alumnae of national organizations became indispensable in making arrangements for visiting extension officers, and in the evaluation of campus groups. Of less assistance were the alumnae of Drake's local sororities, many of whom had transferred or engaged in graduate work and were initiated by national organizations; in addition to interfering with the undergraduate's choice of which organization to petition, the alumnae of some campus groups had been initiated into different national sororities, and in their attempts to promote their own organizations, created indecision and factionalization within their respective groups. A degree of inequity developed when the national organizations determined that there were "only three locals on the campus recognized as national fraternity material";⁷⁷ these three—Beta Chi Upsilon, Epsilon Tau Sigma, and Iota Alpha Omega—became the center of attention, while Drake's seven remaining women's groups were relegated to a second-class status of sorts. Realizing that not all of the sororities on campus could easily achieve national affiliation, Dean Craig became deeply involved in attracting the attention of national organizations. However, Craig was more concerned with quality than she was with quantity, and thus "discouraged the newer nationals, thinking it might interfere with the older nationals' decision."⁷⁸

In spite of all the activity by the women's groups, it was Drake's fraternities that first submitted petitions to national organizations for their consideration. By the summer of 1920, Gamma Sigma Kappa had petitioned Phi Kappa Psi; Phi Gamma Lambda petitioned Kappa Sigma; and Tau Psi petitioned Phi Delta Theta. Discouragingly, none of the petitions were accepted. Typical of the expla-

nations for their denial was that offered by Phi Kappa Psi, which stated that

This action is taken in a full realization of the merit and worth of the petitioning body itself and the spirit of the Phi Psis backing it, but at the same time in consideration of the fact that Drake University is not the type of progressive and foremost [of] schools in which Phi Psi extension is most desirable.⁷⁹

Perhaps the single largest factor in the denial of these petitions was that each national organization already had well-established chapters at nearby Iowa State College, as well as strong groups on other campuses within the state; with an increasing emphasis upon greater geographic extension, the groups at Drake were overlooked.

Fortunately, national sororities had not conditioned their approval of chapters at Drake upon some national fraternity doing so first. In July 1920, representatives from three national sororities met in Chicago to discuss their likely chartering of groups on campus. Present were Bonnie Marshall, Kappa Alpha Theta; Sarah Bacon Harris, national president, Kappa Kappa Gamma; and Mary Raymond Lambert, area official, Delta Gamma. The meeting resulted in a number of decisions, which included:

Kappa will inspect Drake as soon as the college opens in the fall, and Theta and Delta Gamma have promised to cooperate to the extent of circulating the petition [of their respective Drake locals for chapter approval] at the same time that Kappa does, if she decides to go in, and that the three fraternities will enter Drake together if at all.⁸⁰

The agreement between the three sororities to install chapters simultaneously at Drake was entered into to "demonstrate to the world that there is democracy and cooperation among fraternities."⁸¹

The preoccupation with affiliation continued during the 1920-21 school year. In the fall, additional members were recruited, campus involvement was further broadened, and improved housing was secured in an attempt by the Drake groups to make themselves appear more favorable to the national organizations and their officers, who were frequently making inspections of the university. Disregarding the rejection of the petitions of three accomplished Drake local fraternities over the summer, campus groups were certain, in view of all the student enthusiasm, all the interest expressed by national organizations, and all the petitions which had been or were about to be circulating, that someone was going to receive a charter, and soon. In

response to this attitude, an editorial which reflected the change in opinion over the years regarding fraternities appeared in *The Drake Alumnus*:

When the writer was a student in Drake University, he was approached by one of the "clubs" concerning his attitude toward the fraternities. He stated that he was against the introduction of them to campus life. He believed in the preservation of the traditional democracy that always characterized the university. That attitude was also the attitude of many of our leading men on the campus.

Now, however, the situation is different. The university is already committed to the fraternity idea and the larger number of our leading men are fraternity men. They are helpful in the life of the university and are not inclined to be snobbish. We believe that many splendid young men turn elsewhere because we do not offer the possibility of membership in a national fraternity. This is a handicap which the university will not have when the national fraternities enter Drake.⁸²

The first fraternity to receive word of the acceptance of its petition was Sigma Beta Kappa, which was approved at the St. Louis convention of Sigma Alpha Epsilon on December 30, 1920. Sigma Beta Kappa had learned from the experiences of the unsuccessful Drake petitioning fraternities that no national organization was about to simply hand a charter to a group on campus. The local organization, in concert with its involved alumni, devoted all of its energies toward nationalization for a 10-month period beginning in the spring of 1920; the fraternity even managed to steal the headline of *The Evening Tribune* upon the announcement of its plans to petition Sigma Alpha Epsilon.⁸³ Considerable effort was required to obtain the endorsement of the skeptical Des Moines Alumni Association of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, but once it was secured the graduate group was "solidly for going into Drake, for going in with the exceptionally fine local, and for going in now."⁸⁴ This support was so strong that the association's president accompanied Sigma Beta Kappa's most outstanding undergraduates and alumni to Sigma Alpha Epsilon's national convention. Once there, a three-man jazz band assembled by Sigma Beta Kappa performed, which proved to be

a stroke of genius. The undergraduates went wild over their frenetic tootling and inspired improvisations, so much so that the marshalls were hard put to herd the delegates

into the convention hall for business sessions. There is no doubt that jazz rhythm won a lot of votes for Sigma Beta Kappa.⁸⁵

The Drake local also proudly displayed a caricature which they had somehow induced the renowned cartoonist J. N. "Ding" Darling to draw for them, which consisted of a duck bearing the letters "ΣBK," representative of the promising Drake group, addressing a lion, the symbol of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, "we believe you'll like us if you take us in." The illustration additionally appeared in a St. Louis paper the morning Sigma Beta Kappa spoke before the national fraternity's delegation, which proved to be the most persuasive display of all. Sigma Beta Kappa's representative ably withstood question after question from the floor, and expressed the fraternity's firm conviction that it possessed the qualifications to become a chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon; when asked what its reaction would be if its petition was not acted upon favorably, Sigma Beta Kappa responded that "we would be back here at your next convention; and indeed we would be back here at every one from now until doomsday until you either kicked us out or . . ." whereupon the speaker was interrupted by laughter and applause.⁸⁶ Fortunately, the next time Sigma Beta Kappa would be attending a convention of Sigma Alpha Epsilon it would do so as the organization's Iowa Delta chapter; not even an impassioned speech asserting that the fraternity's extension policy had become so liberal that it was "more like the Elks and Odd Fellows and things like that"⁸⁷ could prevent the assembly from approving the Drake group. On February 5, 1921, Sigma Beta Kappa was officially installed as a chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Representing the university at the chapter's installation banquet in the evening were Dean of Men Daniel W. Morehouse, Dean of the College of Law C.J. Hilkey, and President Arthur Holmes who "extended a welcome to Iowa Delta chapter on behalf of the faculty, alumni, student body, and community in general."⁸⁸

As the fanfare from the establishment of Drake University's first national social fraternity died down, the women's groups were completing their petitions to the national sororities. Epsilon Tau Sigma, which coincidentally was the first women's Greek-letter social society founded on campus, was the first to learn of its acceptance upon receipt of word from Kappa Kappa Gamma on March 14, 1921. Beta Chi Upsilon was notified that its petition had been accepted by Kappa Alpha Theta three days later, and on March

23, Iota Alpha Omega was informed that it would become a chapter of Delta Gamma. The three national sororities which had accepted the petitions from Drake kept the agreement they had made the summer before: the campus groups would be installed on the same date, which was set for April 30, 1921.

While other campus groups continued to direct their best efforts toward attracting the attention and favor of national organizations, the "fortunate three" laid plans for the upcoming installations. One week before the installations were to take place, as the final itinerary was being set, the surprising news was received that Chi Omega had accepted the petition of the Drake local sorority Gamma Delta Phi. The announcement came totally unexpected, as Chi Omega had not publicly expressed an interest in Drake, nor had the university made any attempt to encourage the national organization to establish a group on campus. Perhaps even a bigger surprise was Chi Omega's installation of Gamma Delta Phi during the early morning hours of Friday, April 29, 1921, a day before the carefully-planned chartering of three other women's groups. Chi Omega's successful attempt to "beat the clock" and prevent Delta Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Kappa Kappa Gamma from being able to claim that they had been the first national sororities to enter Drake University was taken in stride by the leaders of the three latter organizations, one of which wrote:

Did you hear of the funny time we had with Chi Omega? They slipped in ahead of us all and installed the last of the week preceeding our installations, and then came out in the papers that evening in blaring headlines—"First National Enters Drake." No one paid much attention to them—the other three groups were too busy with their own plans to think much about it. But it was a big surprise to everyone.⁸⁹

Drake's "first" national sorority may have stolen the headlines, but it was the joint installation on Saturday that enjoyed extensive and celebrated coverage. Proud of their cooperative accomplishment, Delta Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Kappa Kappa Gamma would come to revere the event as the most "momentous day in the annals of national fraternity history."⁹⁰

On the afternoon of May 1, the four national sororities conducted a joint Panhellenic tea at the Cotillion Ballroom. The social affair, which formally recognized the long and hard-fought effort to bring national groups to Drake, was attended by over 500

individuals, including the new sorority initiates, installation visitors, local alumnae, and representatives from each Greek-letter social group on campus. An impressive receiving line was assembled, consisting of the national officers that had directed the installations of the four groups. Delta Gamma was represented by Province Secretary Mary Raymond Lambert; Kappa Alpha Theta, by its national vice president, Marjorie Benton Haviland, national cataloger, Eva Hall, and national secretary-editor, L. Pearle Green; and Kappa Kappa Gamma, by its national president, Sarah Harris. Following the tea, each of the new chapters held an installation banquet, which were marked by awesome decorations, inspiring speeches, and loving cup ceremonies.

Not all of Drake's sororities joined in the celebration. Six of the 10 women's groups remained local orders, and all had at least flirted with the thought of "going national." Two would achieve affiliation: Alpha Rho Omega became a chapter of Alpha Chi Omega before the conclusion of the spring semester, and Iota Delta Omicron was installed by Alpha Xi Delta in the fall. The four remaining groups would become demoralized over their inability to obtain a national charter, or in the alternative, inability to compete with the national organizations on campus: Kappa Kappa Upsilon and Zeta Phi dissolved after the spring semester of 1922, while Alpha Gamma Tau and Omega Delta stuck it out one year longer, disbanding in the spring of 1923. Interestingly, a group calling itself Phi Sigma had little trouble successfully petitioning a national sorority; although not organized until the spring of 1922, Phi Sigma was installed as a chapter of Phi Mu on September 9, 1922.

National affiliation did not come easy to Drake's fraternities either. During the late spring of 1921, Chi Delta learned that its petition had failed to receive a sufficient number of favorable votes from the chapters of Sigma Chi, and Kappa Lambda was likewise rejected by Phi Delta Theta. The three other men's groups contemplated strategy for the repetitious of national fraternities which had previously declined to charter them; the resubmission of petitions would take place time and again throughout the 1920s, and all to no avail. Only Kappa Lambda, which switched its preference to Alpha Tau Omega, would prove successful in its efforts; on April 28, 1923, it became the second national fraternity at Drake University.

During this same period, a second wave of

local fraternities were being established. The first, Delta Zeta Chi, was organized in the fall of 1921 as a literary society, but shortly thereafter interest in classical thought gave way to social pursuits and the organization became a Greek-letter fraternity. Several months later, in February 1922, a group of Jewish students who had been unable to obtain membership in the fraternities on campus organized their own society, which they named Sigma Delta Phi. Although small in numbers and not particularly involved in university activities, Sigma Delta Phi was able to achieve national affiliation, becoming a chapter of Phi Beta Delta, an organization with a strong Jewish heritage, on November 19, 1924. Blacks, another segment of the student population that had not been extended the benefits of fraternity, gained their own organization when a chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, "national Negro fraternity,"⁹¹ was installed at Drake University on November 28, 1925.⁹² Earlier in the year the Gauge and Gavel Club had been revived when six campus Masons formed a society that they called Ashlar. Ashlar became popular with the large number of members of the Masonic Order then attending the university; on April 30, 1926 the organization became a chapter of Square and Compass, a national social fraternity for college Masons. Square and Compass was unique as a social fraternity in that its membership was open to initiates of other national organizations.

Drake's administration apparently did not regret its decision to permit national social fraternities to enter onto the campus. Their establishment had been commendably peaceful, and had drawn a good deal of attention to the university. It was immediately realized that the newly-established chapters would serve as a calling card to prospective students, and as such a section of the 1922 publication *The Picture Story of Drake University* was devoted to their activities. The student body, for the most part was likewise pleased by the establishment of national groups, as demonstrated by this statement which appeared in the university annual during the period:

It is a matter of great pride to us that national fraternity people who investigated the character and ideals of our local fraternities and sororities found them of the quality that merits the granting of charters by nationals, and it is likewise a matter of great pride to know that the others on the campus are of equal caliber and will measure up to the requirements that have been so successfully met by their colleagues.

As might be expected, the fraternities and sororities at Drake University are leaders in everything pertaining to university life, spirit and ideals. While their sphere of activity is largely social, they have consistently taken leadership in the spirit and the development of every worthy enterprise and in establishing and maintaining the ideals for which the university stands.⁹³

Like its fraternities and sororities, the university was undergoing change. Arthur Holmes, who had gained the favor of the students but had developed a dislike for the financial management of the university, requested a year's leave of absence in the spring of 1922. Daniel W. Morehouse was named acting president, and following the receipt of an official resignation from Holmes, was inaugurated as president of Drake University on November 1, 1923. In recognition of the university's continuing academic achievement, it was granted a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

While previously Drake had lost many students who transferred to more prestigious institutions, the quality and variety of the university's offerings had consistently improved; by the mid-1920s, a good number of students were instead transferring to Drake. Many of these students had been previously initiated into national organizations which were not represented on the Drake campus, and thus these individuals were unable to continue their fraternity experience. In an attempt to fill this void, Wandering Greeks was established in March of 1926;⁹⁴ its initial membership was comprised of 20 men representing 16 different national fraternities from 12 university campuses. Several years later Wandering Greeks became a coed organization.

In the fall of 1926, the Men's Pan Hellenic Council became the Interfraternity Council. The change went beyond the adoption of a new name; it represented a more progressive outlook in the governance of Drake's fraternities. In the reorganization of the council, the local fraternities which had dictated the direction of the body with outdated views of organization and procedure were stripped of much of their power, and a more modern and equitable system was set into operation. The revitalized council also placed a significant amount of emphasis upon cooperation with the university.

The Drake of the late 1920s was vastly different than that of a decade before. The era of the "flapper" and hip-flask had arrived; young men and women were becoming

increasingly socially active, as well as autonomous from the university. This social activity was centered in the Greek-letter organizations; although the university sponsored such campus events as the annual Barbecue and Circus and a party which was called, oddly enough, "The Grind," fraternity membership was the only actual means to extracurricular entertainment, and would remain as such for the two decades which followed. The university, somewhat concerned over the increasing popularity of fraternities and the decreasing emphasis upon the academic, considered revival of the literary societies, which had become *passé* several years earlier. However, it soon became realized that "traditions could not be imposed by artificial means, and that old traditions, when reintroduced, were in reality the strangest and most unwelcome innovations of all."⁹⁵

On many college campuses, the 1920s marked a period of property acquisition by fraternities and sororities. Groups at Iowa State College and the State University of Iowa, for example, constructed large, impressive, and costly residences. Such building, however, did not take place at Drake University. The university was not in a position to provide funding; alumni groups were not large or affluent enough to make sizeable contributions; local fraternities did not have access to the housing funds maintained by national organizations; and even the chapters of national organizations represented on campus were too young and untested to warrant a sizeable investment by the groups which had chartered them. Two fraternities did purchase residences during the decade, but they were a far cry from the grand and glorious chapter houses found on state campuses. The remaining groups leased and remodeled modest private dwellings that ranged from being adequate to marginally inhabitable. However, it would be remiss to overlook the purpose served by the operation of such housing; as the university had yet to construct its first dormitory, the fraternities and sororities provided a suitable living environment for hundreds of Drake students.

In the spring of 1928 Gamma Sigma Kappa, Drake's oldest fraternity, finally achieved national affiliation, albeit in a peculiar manner. Having become weary over the petitioning process after being repeatedly turned away by Phi Kappa Psi and Sigma Nu, Gamma Sigma Kappa merged into its revered campus competitor Sigma Alpha Epsilon, materially strengthening the latter organization in the process.

The passing of Gamma Sigma Kappa was

Survival Of The Fittest



Harry Glawe

The best of times, the worst of times: the men of Delta Zeta Chi, momentarily ambivalent to the economic adversity which marked the period, entertain the national president of Tau Kappa Epsilon, April 28, 1932.

Although the preceding decade had seen four campus sororities pass out of existence and an equal number of men's groups become frustrated over their inability to achieve national affiliation, by 1929 Drake University's Greek system had achieved a considerable degree of stability. Fraternities and sororities were unquestionably an integral part of student life, and had little difficulty in securing a sufficient number of members. Each organization, with the exception of two,⁹⁶ had obtained housing, and was successfully operating within a carefully planned budget. Most importantly, the relationship between the university and its Greek-letter groups transcended a mere "peaceful coexistence"; both entities were actively involved in promoting one another's interests.

The Great Depression significantly upset this equilibrium. Although the effects of the stock market crash upon Drake University were not instantaneous, they were soon

enough felt. A total of 2449 students attended Drake during the 1929-30 school year; in the semesters which followed this number rapidly fell until 1934-35 when enrollment bottomed-out at 1803 men and women. Faculty salaries were reduced for several years beginning in the summer of 1931; "the times were truly difficult."⁹⁷

Two fraternities, both of which had been experiencing difficulty with membership recruitment for several years, left the campus almost immediately. 1930 brought the demise of Phi Beta Delta, a fraternity which during its four-year existence had never gained strength due to the meager enrollment of Jewish students to which it was oriented. In the same year, the charter of the Drake chapter of Square and Compass was withdrawn; there were simply not enough interested Masons attending Drake to sustain the organization. Two additional men's groups ceased operations in the spring of 1931. Phi Gamma Lambda, demoralized over its unsuccessful

attempts to become a part of a national fraternity and on the brink of insolvency, merged into the Drake chapter of Alpha Tau Omega. Tau Psi, which had been on probation since 1928 "on account of the admitted irregularities of its members,"⁹⁸ was officially disbanded by the university. The surviving fraternities, crippled by the loss of members who were unable to pay tuition and the plummeting drop in the rate of chapter house occupancy which followed, adopted austere programming and economized whenever and wherever possible. Membership recruitment became increasingly difficult as those students who were fortunate enough to have somehow found the funding to attend classes identified affiliation as a luxury, rather than a necessity.

Drake's sororities were equally disadvantaged, if not more so. A considerable number of women were enrolled in the College of Education's two-year programs, resulting in a high turnover in sorority membership and leadership. Somewhere along the line the university had imposed a one-year pledgeship requirement upon its sororities, which deterred affiliation, reduced retention, and likewise diminished the availability of internal leadership. In 1931 the university opened its first dormitory for women,⁹⁹ which presented female students with an affordable alternative to sorority house living without the responsibilities of sorority house life. Additionally, the Panhellenic Council had made no attempt to prevent a membership imbalance between campus groups through the establishment of a chapter limitation system.

Phi Mu, the youngest and perhaps the least accomplished sorority on campus, was the first to go. One year later, in the fall of 1933, Alpha Chi Omega announced that it was closing its Drake chapter.¹⁰⁰ It soon appeared that Alpha Xi Delta and Chi Omega would also leave the campus, and that the remaining women's groups could conceivably fail if conditions did not improve. The sororities, like their male counterparts, undertook drastic measures to avert extinction. Chapter dinners became chapter potlucks, and relocations were made to more modest and affordable rental properties; housemothers' salaries were cut, and an aggressive effort was made to collect the outstanding bills of undergraduate as well as alumnae members.

The university, which was consumed by its own problems, made some effort to assist the Greek-letter groups. In 1931 the Committee on Fraternity Affairs, a body which had been

in existence for a short period of time, established a set of requirements to promote "the financial stability of all the fraternities on the campus," and to prevent "new students in becoming involved in the debts of a nearly bankrupt organization."¹⁰¹ Specifically, the committee prohibited the recruitment or pledging of men until a fraternity had discharged all its debts from the prior semester and had its ledgers approved. This "protection" was later extended to the sororities, along with an extremely beneficial ruling that "any student delinquent in his fraternity account may be denied his degree, the transfer of credits, his grades or further registration in the university."¹⁰²

Some additional encouragement was offered by the installation of Delta Zeta Chi as a chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon on the weekend of December 18, 1932. Delta Zeta Chi had been presented with the seemingly impossible task of building a \$1500 "nationalization fund," but through the assistance of its alumni the fraternity had prevailed. However, things would get worse before they began to improve. In 1934, Chi Delta slipped into inactivity. Where five years before there had been eight fraternities operating on the Drake campus, only three—all of which were chapters of national organizations—remained.

Throughout this ordeal, which outlasted an entire college generation, many a group endured when it would have been far easier to surrender its charter. This is not say that the groups which did pass out of existence had resigned themselves to failure, as it was definitely a matter of survival of the fittest. Even the most successful organizations were unprepared and unsuited for a crisis with the magnitude of the Depression; uncertainty and sacrifice became a part of the daily routine. Although there were many factors involved in the ability of Drake's fraternities and sororities to persist, the contribution made by alumni was invaluable. More important than providing financial assistance, the alumni took an active role in chapter activities and decision making. Their deep interest provided a sense of continuity between the past and the present, spurring the undergraduates to press on to ensure that the organization would have a future.

Perhaps equally invaluable was the ability of campus Greeks to maintain their sense of humor in spite of the bleakest of circumstances. Conservatism may have reached every facet of chapter operations, but the fraternities and sororities did not forget that they were in fact *social* organizations. Dances

and parties were conducted, albeit on a reduced scale, and continued to be the only social activity on campus. Occasionally the solemnity of the period was shaken by acts of frivolity; in December 1933, 500 students—among them the members of five Greek-letter organizations—lost their social privileges and “one-tenth of a credit”¹⁰³ for cutting classes on flunk day. The university’s action resulted in the cancellation of 12 fraternity and sorority dances which had previously been scheduled. A more honorable accomplishment was the staging of the first “Valentine’s Sweetheart Sing” in the spring of 1935. The musical competition between fraternities and sororities became a tremendous success and today remains one of the most honored traditions within the Drake Greek community.

Drake’s fraternities and sororities continued to provide the university with more than a proportionate number of scholars, leaders, and other personalities during the 1930s. Although the organizations had always exercised a considerable amount of influence over the entire student population throughout the years, it was during this period that a new method of campus control was discovered: the alliance. Fraternities and sororities found that by agreeing to vote for a particular candidate for class president, *Delphic* editor, *Who’s Who*, or any other campus office or honor, they could ensure the candidate’s election; in spite of the fact that only 25 percent of the students were Greek, this feat could nonetheless be accomplished because “the barbs [unaffiliated students] were disorganized.”¹⁰⁴ Ignoring comments to the effect that “fraternity life is some kind of a monster,”¹⁰⁵ the alliance system was used repeatedly and successfully;¹⁰⁶ the only difficulty arose when the Greek-letter groups formed multiple coalitions and thus split the fraternity vote.

In the fall of 1935, there was an increase in Drake’s enrollment for the first time in five years. Although the economy was still far from optimal, conditions had improved enough that the university and its surviving fraternities and sororities appeared to be out of danger. An optimistic Sigma Alpha Epsilon made a major housing investment on 34th Street, which would later become Drake’s “Greek Row”; unfortunately, almost immediately after moving into the property, area residents demanded that the fraternity

be evicted. Alpha Tau Omega’s presence came under similar fire, and a court battle ensued. Although both organizations were permitted to retain their chapter houses—due to a technicality in the city’s zoning ordinance—the neighbors of Drake’s fraternities and sororities would repeatedly oppose the presence of the organizations for the two decades which followed.

Growth was evidenced in the spring of 1937 by the re-establishment of Chi Delta and the installation of the Drake Men’s Club as a chapter of Drake’s fourth functioning national fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Pi. The Drake Men’s Club had been organized two years earlier as a response to the unwillingness of campus fraternities to invite Jewish students into membership. This prejudice was practiced by sororities as well as fraternities, with some of the women’s groups additionally placing severe limitations upon the number of Roman Catholics that could be pledged. To some extent, a preference for white, Anglo-Saxon Protestants had been mandated by the national organizations with which the Drake groups had affiliated; it was also indicative of the attitudes of society in general at the time.

By 1939, the recovery of the campus was nearly complete. Enrollment was approaching its pre-Depression level, and money was not as scarce of a commodity as it had been several years before. Among the beneficiaries of the change in circumstances were the fraternities and sororities, which once again prospered. Membership grew; more suitable housing was obtained; and a variety of new social events and activities—including a Greek intramural debate tournament—were held. Although Chi Omega relinquished its chapter house and took “no active part in rushing or campus activities”¹⁰⁷ during the spring semester of 1939, within a year it too celebrated recovery. The Panhellenic Council, to help prevent the future loss of campus sororities, finally passed a chapter limitation system, and the university, in an equally timely fashion, suspended its one-year pledgeship requirement for women.

After a decade of struggle, stability had been regained. However, the sense of security held by Drake’s fraternities and sororities at the close of the 1930s would prove to be short-lived; world events were about to once again disturb the equilibrium.

⁹⁶The two exceptions were Phi Beta Delta and Square and Compass, fraternities which, due to restrictive membership policies, had been unable to initiate sufficient numbers of men to allow for the operation of chapter houses.

Phi Beta Delta's membership was composed of Jewish students, although there was no restriction within its constitution to that effect. There were few Jewish men attending Drake University during this period; the small number that did were largely residents of Des Moines, thus making a chapter house impractical.

Square and Compass restricted its membership to college Masons; for a variety of reasons, there were only a handful of members of the Masonic Order enrolled at Drake by the late 1920s. The fraternity did, however, operate a chapter house during the 1927-28 school year.

⁹⁷Ritchey, p. 212.

⁹⁸"The Des Moines Tribune," April 2, 1931.

⁹⁹In actuality, the president's home had been converted into a dormitory for women in 1920. However, the dormitory, named Craig House, had a minimal capacity.

¹⁰⁰Alpha Chi Omega claimed that its action was a result of a belief that "Drake was not large

enough to support six national sororities," and that "it would be best to quit while we owed no debts and had a clear conscience." "The Drake Times-Delphic," October 26, 1933.

¹⁰¹"The Des Moines Times-Delphic," February 12, 1931.

¹⁰²*The Handbook of Drake University* (1938), p. 8.

¹⁰³"The Drake Times-Delphic," December 7, 1933.

¹⁰⁴"The Des Moines Times-Delphic," February 5, 1931.

¹⁰⁵Id.

¹⁰⁶The coordination of the alliances was likely undertaken by the Drake chapter of Theta Nu Epsilon, more commonly known as TNE, a clandestine organization composed of campus fraternity leaders. Allegedly, TNE possessed the power, legitimately and otherwise, to guarantee the victory of a candidate which it chose to back. Surprisingly, this highly influential body was never uncovered by the faculty or the student body; for more background, consult the section entitled *Theta Nu Epsilon*.

¹⁰⁷"The Drake Times-Delphic," November 14, 1939.

VII

War And Other Sacrifices



Drake University

Drake goes to war: soldier-students arrive on campus, 1942.

The 1940s had arrived; the darkest days of the Depression had been forgotten, with the university and its students taking advantage of a brief interlude of prosperity and normalcy. Drake's enrollment in the spring of 1941 had reached the highest level in the 60-year history of the institution, and the Greek-letter social organizations on campus were also enjoying unparalleled growth. Although the number of fraternities had significantly diminished, the size of those remaining was impressive; membership in three of the four national fraternities at Drake ranged from 60-75 men, whereas 15 years earlier a group was considered large if it could claim 30 members. Campus sororities had also become larger, with an average-sized women's group consisting of 45 members.¹⁰⁸

The death of President Daniel W. Morehouse on January 21, 1941 drew the respite to a close. During the month which followed several other individuals instrumental in the development of Drake, including Business Manager Edward C. Lytton, also passed on, ending an era and hastening change within the university. The world was

undergoing change as well; the Second World War had erupted in Europe in 1939, and with the enactment of the Selective Service Act the United States' involvement in the conflict appeared likely. "No one foresaw with certainty the challenges of war that all were to meet in only a few months, but no one could escape sensing the inevitable."¹⁰⁹

A few months prior to the arrival of the inevitable, the board of trustees appointed Dr. Henry Gadd Harmon as president of the university. Harmon, who had enjoyed a successful career in educational administration, had been initiated into Pi Kappa Alpha while a graduate student at Transylvania University. Proud of his Greek affiliation, Harmon would prove to take an active interest in the affairs of the fraternities and sororities on campus throughout his 23-year administration.

Harmon had little opportunity to become accustomed to his new surroundings before December 1941, when the country was once again at war. In anticipation of the loss of male students and faculty, an accelerated program was announced less than a month

later: by consecutively attending five semesters and three summer sessions, a student could graduate in two and one-half years. This allowed the university to keep a fair portion of its student body for a time, as draft deferments were generally available to students enrolled in accelerated college programs.

Drake's fraternities and sororities knew that the war would disrupt their functioning, but the extent of such disruption remained unclear. Some men enlisted immediately, but the vast majority of fraternity members remained on campus for another year. Greek-letter groups contributed their trophy collections to scrap metal drives; the sororities became involved in the same war relief efforts that their mothers had nearly a quarter of a century before. Social activity was largely curtailed, with fraternity men waiting to join the service and sorority women being called upon to fill new and different roles.

Tau Kappa Epsilon was the first campus fraternity to become inactive; in June 1942, with only a few members remaining on campus, its chapter house was relinquished and its ritual equipment placed in storage. Early in 1943 Alpha Epsilon Pi and Chi Delta also entered a state of dormancy for the duration of the war. Alpha Tau Omega and Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Drake's two largest fraternities at the outset of hostilities, were able to continue operating although on a greatly reduced scale. At the request of the university, both organizations gave up their chapter houses in the spring of 1943 so that they could be utilized as barracks for some of the over 500 Army Air Corps cadets receiving instruction on campus. A year later, as the United States reached its deepest involvement in the war, the combined membership of the two organizations was less than 25 men. The fraternities nevertheless continued to hold regular chapter meetings, modest social events, and occasionally, the initiation of a scant number of new members.

The contribution made by Drake fraternity men in World War II was significant. As previously stated, all of the organizations saw a considerable portion of their undergraduate as well as alumni membership enter the service, with nearly 100 percent of some groups involved in the war effort. No fewer than 20 initiates of campus fraternities lost their lives in the conflict.

Drake's sororities, meanwhile, occupied a precarious position in campus life. The university's female enrollment had also declined, and some sorority women had entered the service, but generally the groups encountered

little difficulty in securing adequate memberships. Perhaps the biggest challenge which faced the sororities was keeping occupied outside of the classroom; with only 16 percent of Drake's enrollment composed of men during the 1944-45 school year, there was little opportunity for social activity on the campus. Instead, the sororities entertained soldiers stationed at Fort Des Moines, and assisted with the war effort in any way possible. Some diversion may have been provided by the "Songfest" which was held in lieu of Sweetheart Sing in 1943 and 1944.

By the fall of 1944 there were strong indications that the war would soon be over. This fact was evidenced in part by an increase in enrollment at Drake University for the first time in four years. Tau Kappa Epsilon was re-established, and there was an increase in sorority as well as fraternity activity on campus. With the defeat of Japan in August 1945 came a great influx of students; while Drake's enrollment had dropped by 1,076 during the war years, this loss was more than made up for during the 1945-46 school year.

The university's administration realized that in the years to follow enrollment would continue to climb, largely due to the generous educational assistance provided to veterans by the GI Bill, with literally thousands of new students entering Drake.¹¹⁰ A number of special programs and strategies to meet the new and changing demands upon the university were adopted, two of which directly affected the fraternities and sororities. In the fall of 1945 the Office of the Dean of Students was created to help coordinate the flood of potential student problems. The deans of men and women¹¹¹ were retained to assist the dean of students with his task; additionally, "counselors" were employed to further accommodate the increasing number of men and women coming to the campus. During this same semester the Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs was established. An extension of the Student Activities Committee of the University Senate, the duties and functions of the Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs included:

1. To review and study fraternity and sorority problems with respect to general policies.
2. To receive and review petitions for colonization directed to the university from national fraternities or sororities; and to review the requests or petitions submitted by local student groups desiring to affiliate with national social organizations.
3. To serve as an advisory board to the Dean

of Students' Office on fraternity and sorority problems.

4. To serve as an advisory board to local social groups desiring to affiliate with a national fraternity or sorority or to establish a local fraternity or sorority.¹¹²

The committee, which did not include any student members, would prove to be a great asset to Drake's Greek-letter groups in the years which followed.¹¹³

One of the first actions undertaken by the Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs was the approval of a request to colonize from Delta Zeta, which the national sorority had submitted early in 1946. Realizing that the need for additional women's groups would soon become evident, the committee enthusiastically endorsed Delta Zeta's petition; shortly thereafter the sorority conducted a successful recruitment effort on campus, with a Drake chapter of the national organization installed on April 1, 1946. During the spring semester the committee also approved the re-establishment of Alpha Epsilon Pi and Chi Delta, whose members had returned from the service and were anxious to revive their organizations. Wandering Greeks was likewise revived, its operation attesting to the presence of a large number of transfer students at the university.

The increase in enrollment resulted in a boon for Drake's fraternities. The post-war pledge classes of Alpha Tau Omega, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and Tau Kappa Epsilon were almost ridiculously large in size; the acquisition of 50-60 new men during the fall semesters pushed the total membership of these organizations to over 100 individuals. This came as a surprise to many; it had originally been speculated that most veterans would view the fraternities as sophomoric and shun the thought of membership, when in reality the opposite proved to be true. The returning servicemen, all but deprived of a social life during the war, were anxious to partake in a full college experience. Their integration into Drake's fraternities had an appreciable positive impact upon the maturity of the organizations: hazing practices were for the most part abolished, relations with the university improved, and campus credibility increased. There was, however, one disadvantage to the affiliation of veterans, particularly those who were somewhat older in age. These men brought with them an experience with alcohol which became lodged within the fraternities. This social acceptance of drinking manifested itself in a number of problems, several of which remain to this day.

As more and more students enrolled, the number of men interested in fraternity affiliation outstripped the availability of organizations on campus. Although the administration made no immediate effort to contact national fraternities with the object of establishing additional groups, a member of the faculty took it upon himself to do so. Roy L. Miller, chairman of the Department of Political Science and chapter advisor to the Drake chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon,¹¹⁴ sent correspondence to a number of national fraternities in the summer of 1946 in the hope of securing their interest in the university. In demonstrating the desirability of Drake as a prospect for extension, Miller wrote that

with the constructive attitude our administration takes toward fraternities, with the number of potential fraternity men that can be recruited from our student body, and with the superior quality of academic work which Drake has been known in the past and will continue to improve upon in the future, this campus should be one upon which a chapter would bring credit to [a] national organization.¹¹⁵

Although commendable, Professor Miller's lobbying efforts did not meet with any immediate success. Several years would pass before the imbalance between fraternity supply and demand was rectified.

During the years 1947-49 the rapid growth and progress of Drake's fraternities and sororities were curtailed somewhat by a series of events from both within and outside of the university. The first disappointment came in June of 1947 when Dean of Men George S. Berry announced that "it has been decided that the withholding of grades to assist in the collection of delinquent fees is not properly a function of the Registrar's Office and should be handled by the fraternity itself."¹¹⁶ By revoking this privilege, which had stood unchallenged for a decade, the university had turned the previously effortless collection of fraternity income into a considerable burden.¹¹⁷

A further handicap was imposed by the unavailability of adequate fraternity and sorority housing. The groups had grown weary of relocating from rental property to rental property; additionally, it had become almost impossible to lease—or for that matter, even purchase—a residence in the Drake area which could accommodate a growing membership. The university did own a number of properties which might have proved suitable, but they were already serving the urgent need of providing overflow housing for the Women's Dormitory. As only three of

Drake's 11 Greek-letter organizations—Alpha Xi Delta, Alpha Tau Omega, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon—occupied what was considered to be satisfactory housing, the problem was a major concern and detriment to the entire fraternity-sorority system. Although the university's administration realized that "our ability to attract other strong national fraternities to this campus would be greatly enhanced if positive steps could be taken to assist organized groups with their housing problems," it had "no answer"¹¹⁸ to the crisis, and the undergraduate organizations were left to fend for themselves.

A number of groups investigated the availability of housing on the section of 34th Street between Forest and University avenues, a block which contained a variety of large and attractive private residences. Alpha Xi Delta and Sigma Alpha Epsilon had operated on the street for a number of years, and thus it appeared to be an appropriate location for additional fraternities and sororities. There was only one difficulty posed by such relocation: the city zoning ordinance, which prohibited the establishment of multiple-resident housing in the area. Sigma Alpha Epsilon had acquired its house prior to the legal passage of the ordinance, and Alpha Xi Delta's violation had somehow never been detected; strong neighborhood sentiment against the organizations foreclosed the possibility of the admission of additional groups. Nonetheless, Kappa Alpha Theta, which desired to purchase a suitable property on 34th Street, petitioned for the rezoning of the area.¹¹⁹ The Des Moines City Plan and Zoning Commission, acknowledging that "the pressure for rooming and organized housing space appeared to be the inevitable result of a population trend and need,"¹²⁰ approved the petition on October 2, 1947. One week later, the city council unanimously ratified the change; however, it was subsequently learned that public notice of the proposed ordinance change had not been published 15 days prior to a hearing on the matter as required by law, and as a result Kappa Alpha Theta's petition had to be reconsidered.¹²¹ Upon taking a second vote, the city council lost its empathy: neighborhood residents prevailed, and the motion to rezone 34th Street was defeated. As a compromise, Alpha Xi Delta and Kappa Alpha Theta were granted zoning variances, enabling them to legally maintain chapter houses on the block.

The disinterest of national fraternities in colonizing at Drake University placed a further restraint upon the growth of the cam-

pus' Greek system. Efforts were renewed this time by the university, to attract the attention of national organizations during 1948-49. In particular, the administration hoped that some organization would be interested in Chi Delta, the university's only remaining local fraternity; this was somewhat ironic, as 30 years before Drake had expressed a preference for local, as opposed to national groups. Unfortunately, none of the 18 national organizations contacted¹²² seem to have been moved by the fact that only 10 percent of Drake's male population was affiliated with fraternities. Those organizations which the university deemed to be most desirable thus declined the opportunity to establish chapters at Drake, although in later years many of them came to view the campus more favorably and in a few instances took advantage of a second chance to install a group.

This is not to say that additional national fraternities did not come to campus. Chapters of Pi Kappa Phi and Theta Chi at nearby Iowa State College embraced the idea of extending their organizations to Drake, and established interest groups with the permission and guidance of the Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. Chi Delta successfully petitioned Sigma Phi Epsilon,¹²³ and was installed as a chapter of the national organization on May 9, 1948. One year later Pi Kappa Phi and Theta Chi chartered their Drake colonies, and a local fraternity known as Delta Xi had been organized to petition Pi Kappa Alpha. During this same period a seventh national sorority was added when Phi Mu was reinstalled on November 4, 1948. The chapter had become inactive 16 years earlier as a result of the Depression.

The 1940s had proven to be problematic for Drake's fraternities and sororities, and although conditions had improved somewhat, one final stumbling block would appear before the close of the decade. Dean of Students Robert B. Kamm, who had succeeded George S. Beery in August 1948, was of the belief that the existing rush format resulted in "the loyalties of the freshmen being directed to a specific group rather than to the university as a whole."¹²⁴ In order to avoid "a state of competition for new students' time,"¹²⁵ Kamm suggested that a program of deferred rushing—where the pledging of freshman students be delayed for one semester—be implemented. Campus sororities rejected the idea, and fraternities approved it by only a narrow margin, but Kamm defended the program by stating that

new students, most of whom [are] completely unfamiliar with the university situation, [are] being forced to make hurried and often unwise decisions with regard to what group they should join. We believe that a semester's residence will give the students opportunity to decide intelligently with which group they should affiliate . . . we have felt, also, that there would be a curtailment of depledging for such reasons as academic failure and wrong choice of social group, if the students were given more time before pledging a group.¹²⁶

Opponents of the proposal asserted that a deferred rush format would require an intricate set of rules which would be difficult, if not impossible to enforce, and that such a program would encourage "mud-slinging" between groups. There were also certain

chapter financial aspects to be considered, but ultimately Kamm ruled that "as of the opening of school next fall, there will be a one-semester delay in the rushing of freshman students."¹²⁷ In spite of the hardship imposed, fraternities and sororities complied. When it was realized that the deferred rushing program had resulted in none of the advantages which had previously been promoted and had in fact only caused the Greek-letter groups a great deal of inconvenience, the traditional membership recruitment process was reinstated.

For Drake's fraternities and sororities, an extended series of growing pains was over. Prolonged and uneventful prosperity was to follow, and although perhaps not as interesting, was far easier to live with.

¹⁰⁸This calculation does not take into account the comparatively small size of Chi Omega, which took more time than the other women's groups to recover from the Depression.

¹⁰⁹Ritchey, p. 222.

¹¹⁰Between 1944 and 1950, Drake University's enrollment rose by nearly 5,000 students.

¹¹¹In 1944, Drake University had acquired what is believed to be its first dean of women who was an initiate of a national sorority: Mary Ellen Jacobs, Pi Beta Phi. One year later Jacobs was succeeded by Leona Anderson, a 1934 graduate of Drake and an initiate of the campus chapter of Alpha Xi Delta.

¹¹²Minutes, Students Activities Committee, Drake University Senate, December 13, 1949.

¹¹³However, the Panhellenic Council was somewhat disappointed with the Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs' actions on two occasions; after promising the Panhellenic consideration of its thoughts on the colonization of additional sororities, the committee approved the entrance of national organizations in 1946 and 1948 without first consulting the existing women's groups.

¹¹⁴Miller was also an area official of Sigma Alpha Epsilon; subsequently he became extensively involved in the national affairs of the fraternity and was elected its national president in 1967.

¹¹⁵To Frederick W. Ladue, national president, Theta Chi, July 8, 1946. It is not specifically known what other organizations Miller contacted.

¹¹⁶George S. Beery, to Stanley Barman, president, Alpha Epsilon Pi, Drake University, June 5, 1947.

¹¹⁷Greek-letter organizations have unsuccessfully attempted to have this university service reinstated ever since. Perhaps the most impressive and persuasive grade withholding proposal—

which included a series of flow charts—was drafted by the Interfraternity Council and submitted to the University Senate for its consideration in the fall of 1975. The proposal, like all those before and since, was defeated.

¹¹⁸Norman Johnson, dean of men, to Robert Kamm, dean of students, February 11, 1949.

¹¹⁹Actually, Kappa Alpha Theta had only requested that it be granted a variance for its prospective home; the commission felt that it would be more appropriate to rezone the entire block.

¹²⁰"The Des Moines Register," October 3, 1947. Speaking at the meeting in favor of the change in zoning was Dean Beery.

¹²¹Oddly enough, this same type of error had prevented Sigma Alpha Epsilon from being evicted from its 34th Street home in the late 1930s.

¹²²Alpha Delta Phi, Beta Theta Pi, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Delta Tau Delta, Delta Upsilon, Kappa Alpha Order, Kappa Sigma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Kappa Psi, Phi Kappa Sigma, Phi Sigma Kappa, Pi Kappa Alpha, Psi Upsilon, Sigma Chi, Sigma Nu, and Theta Xi.

Pi Kappa Alpha had earlier considered chartering Chi Delta, but decided against doing so. It did, however, renew its interest in Drake University in late spring 1949, and installed a group one year later.

Theta Xi had requested the permission of the Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs to colonize at Drake, which was approved on February 17, 1949. For reasons which remain unknown, Theta Xi did not follow through on its request.

A number of traditionally Jewish national fraternities had requested permission to establish chapters, but were turned away in the belief that the campus could not support two Jewish fraternities.

Upon considering expansion in 1982, Drake University was notified by almost all of the above-mentioned groups of their interest in the campus as a location for a chapter.

¹²³Sigma Phi Epsilon had been contacted by Drake University on March 9, 1948 in regard to Chi Delta, some time after the campus organization notified the national fraternity of its interest in becoming a chapter.

¹²⁴Robert Kamm, to Henry Harmon, August 24, 1949.

¹²⁵Id.

¹²⁶Id.

¹²⁷Robert Kamm, to Mildred Carl, president, Drake Panhellenic Council, February 11, 1949.

VIII

Advancement And Complacency



Drake University

The wholesome era: a post-war pinning ceremony transpires on the front steps of the Chi Omega chapter house.

The post-war period had found Drake's fraternities and sororities continuing to make progress, although in achieving this progress the groups had come head-to-head with a number of obstacles. Some of these obstructions gave way, while others simply came to be tolerated. During the 1950s and the better part of the '60s a few of the earlier problems continued and several new ones arose, but by and large during these two tranquil decades the campus Greeks made further progress, and achieved a degree of complacency in the process.

An appropriate beginning of the 1950s was the installation of the Drake local fraternity Delta Xi as a chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha on February 25, 1950. Pi Kappa Alpha had become the fourth national fraternity to

establish a chapter on campus since 1948, and in doing so raised the total number of organizations for men to a level which could accommodate, if not over accommodate, the demand for affiliation. Membership in Drake's nine fraternities consisted of 564 men, or 22 percent of the total male enrollment, in the spring of 1950.¹²⁸ In spite of such influences as fluctuations in enrollment, policy changes in dormitory residency requirements,¹²⁹ and the Korean War draft, approximately one-quarter of Drake's male population would hold membership in fraternities for the 19 years which followed.

A considerably larger portion of Drake women were sorority affiliates; in the spring of 1950, 44 percent or 317 female students were members of the seven national organizations present on campus. Phi Mu left the university in the spring of 1952, following an unsuccessful attempt to re-establish its Drake chapter. This loss was made up for one semester later when Delta Rho, a group originally organized as the Neonates in 1948, was installed as a chapter of Alpha Epsilon Phi. The establishment of this national organization was significant, as the Panhellenic Council had realized that "almost all the sororities do not pledge girls of the Jewish origin,"¹³⁰ and Alpha Epsilon Phi was oriented toward this particular group of students.

Following the conclusion of World War II, the idea of holding a series of fraternity and sorority events under the title of "Greek Week" was put into operation on campuses across the country. Drake University held its own abbreviated version of a Greek Week—which was aptly named Greek Weekend—in March 1952. Consisting of a faculty tea, a picnic for underprivileged children, Sweetheart Sing, a formal dance, and a joint fraternity-sorority luncheon which was addressed by President Henry Harmon, Greek Weekend was well-received and repeated the following year in an expanded format. Continuing popularity resulted in the festival becoming an annual event—and a full-fledged Greek Week beginning in 1957—

with its activities enthusiastically participated in to this day.

Noteworthy changes were taking place in student life and attitudes during the early 1950s. Dormitory residents formed hall councils and began to sponsor their own social activities, and men and women were becoming more involved in all facets of the university. Drake's administration found it necessary to revise its role *vis-a-vis* the student; whereas previously the deans of men and women had largely been concerned with campus discipline, an increasing emphasis began to be placed upon the coordination of student programming and the supervision of student living environments. One immediate area of concern was the promotion of scholastics within the campus fraternities, which was examined in depth by Dean of Men Edward Voldseth¹³¹ in the fall of 1952. In commenting on the repeated failure of the all-fraternity grade-point average to equal or surpass the all-men's,¹³² Dr. Voldseth concluded that

I honestly believe that the solution to the problem is in a wiser selection of members. Pressures invoked by financial necessity, however, make such wiser selection difficult if not impossible in several of our groups. It is interesting to me to note that the four fraternities whose financial positions I believe to be most sound were also the four top ranking fraternities scholastically last spring. I frankly know of no way by which wiser selection criteria can be adopted by decree or dictate of the administration of the university. Rather, I believe wiser selection must come from within the groups. For example, if we were to rule that no man could be pledged by a fraternity unless he ranked among the top-half of his high school graduating class, we would have to rule also that he could not participate in any other extracurricular activity. This, I think, is not only undesirable but impossible to enforce. Indeed, it would be wholly inconsistent with the university's own policy of admitting students on the basis of individual circumstances and conditions.¹³³

Voldseth had previously mandated that "any group whose scholastic average during any one semester should fall to a .25 or more beneath the all-men's average of the institution would be subject to the loss of social privileges."¹³⁴ It was the belief of Voldseth that this regulation, which supplemented a long-standing requirement that a student possess at least a 2.0 grade-point average to be eligible for initiation, had resulted in Drake's fraternities becoming "more scholarship conscious than they were several years ago."¹³⁵

Along the same lines, Dean of Students Robert Kamm directed the first long-range planning study of the university's fraternities and sororities in the spring of 1954. Trends in enrollment and affiliation were reviewed, the possibility of adding new groups in the future was considered, and the "development of a coordinated fraternity and sorority housing program close to campus" was strongly urged.¹³⁶ Kamm admitted, however, that "it is difficult, in view of the many variables, to predict what our needs for fraternities and sororities will be in the future," and in recognition of this uncertainty advised that "a careful study of needs be again made in five years."¹³⁷ Kamm did proceed to conclude, however, that increases in enrollment would not require the addition of a ninth fraternity until "1965 or 1966," and that there would be no need for "additional [women's] groups until 1966 or 1967."

Kamm's research, although both insightful and empirically correct, was contradicted somewhat by the actual sorority situation. On several occasions during this period, almost half of all female students at Drake were members of social sororities; the women's groups apparently found such a high level of popularity unsettling, and measures were taken to limit the number of invitations to membership issued. As a result, "too many girls were not pledged to any sorority . . . and the problem [became] more acute than it appeared."¹³⁸ In September 1955 the Panhellenic Council discussed the possibility of establishing an eighth sorority on campus; however, no action was taken until the fall of 1957, at which time Alpha Phi was granted permission to colonize. Even after Alpha Phi's installation of its Drake colony in March 1958, the Panhellenic Council's member groups continued to complain that "each year we have a larger number of girls interested in pledging a sorority," and consequently plans to "limit the number of rushees" were discussed.¹³⁹

The dispute over the zoning of 34th Street between Forest and University avenues once again surfaced in June 1958.¹⁴⁰ Alpha Phi petitioned the city council for a zoning variance on a property located at 1236 34th Street, which it desired to purchase; "despite heated protests from nearby residents,"¹⁴¹ the petition was approved. Disgruntled neighbors, who asserted that the city council's "spot zoning" of the property was both arbitrary and unconstitutional, sought legal recourse. After initially losing the case on July 23, 1959, the neighbors prevailed in the Iowa Supreme Court: the zoning change

could not stand. Alpha Phi, which had already occupied the property in question for an entire school year, was dealt a "complete blow"¹⁴² when it was faced with the prospect of losing its \$45,000 housing investment. A sympathetic city council asked the supreme court to reconsider; when the request was denied, the council decided to end the conflict once and for all by rezoning the entire block.¹⁴³

Students attending Drake in the late 1950s possessed a certain innocence lacked by earlier college generations; few were old enough to remember the ravages of World War II, let alone the sacrifices of the Depression. Even McCarthyism and "The Bomb" seemed far removed from the small Midwestern campus. This carefree time found campus Greeks striving for the genteel: etiquette became a part of pledge education, to ensure that sorority members were, above all else, ladies, and that fraternity members were always gentlemen. Serenades and pinning ceremonies became of major importance, and group conformity was unceasingly reinforced. The Greeks were trying to be different from the student body in general, and didn't seem to mind if others took note of this fact.

The sense of elitism held by Drake's fraternities and sororities was brought to the forefront on April 26, 1961, when the Student-Faculty Council (SFC) of the Drake University Senate released a 14-page report which concluded that "religious and racial discrimination does exist within the Greek-letter social fraternity system, this in varying shades and degrees of severity."¹⁴⁴ In preparing the report, which made the headline of *The Des Moines Tribune*, the SFC's Committee on On-Campus Discriminatory Practices had failed to receive the cooperation of the groups which were the subject of the study; instead, the fraternities and sororities challenged the subcommittee's investigation as being "communist inspired" and a case of the "independents out to get the Greeks."¹⁴⁵ The particular lack of assistance on the part of campus sororities was noted within the report:

Instead of participating in the committee's investigation, as each was invited, the sororities took a collective stand of "passive resistance." It was the feeling of the committee that many individuals and a few groups would have willingly participated in the committee's studies had not the national officers of the individual organizations communicated with the local chapters with instructions *not* to cooperate with the Drake study

The only conclusion which the committee was able to reach in regard to the Greek-letter social societies was that alumni and national control over the local groups is unlimited, rigid, and final, leaving the local groups and their members unable to discuss or perhaps even to think about, the present problem.

The committee could find no "facts" concerning racial and religious discrimination in sorority membership selection practices, simply because no information concerning such was available or made available to the study group. Thus, because nothing is, or seemingly can be known about sorority membership selection practices on this campus, it is the feeling of the committee that the sororities can be written off only with a suspicious question mark in this matter.¹⁴⁶

In examining the membership selection criteria of fraternities, based upon information provided by five of Drake's ten social groups for men, the committee reported that

one was found to have a written clause in its constitution restricting membership on the basis of race and religion. The other four groups did not possess such a written clause, but three of these revealed other means or agreements recognized within their organization as methods of restriction on the same basis . . . the unwritten means of restrictions were in the nature of "gentlemen's agreements" within the national organization, general understandings that no person previously prohibited by the "White Christian Clause" would be admitted to the groups.¹⁴⁷

Although the committee determined that the responsibility for the elimination of the discriminatory practices ultimately rested with the individual chapters, it strongly recommended that the university "make a definite statement of policy regarding the student groups and discriminatory practices in the selection of their membership," as "to allow such practices would be contrary to the ideals of the university and inconsistent with the university's policy in other areas of its community."¹⁴⁸ The committee also suggested that future groups not be recognized by the university unless their membership criteria did not take race, color, or religion into account. One year later the Drake University Senate adopted a policy statement which embodied the committee's proposals, which stated among other things that "student organizations shall enjoy full freedom to select their members as long as this selection is based on merit, congeniality, common interests, and special talents."¹⁴⁹

The discrimination controversy cleared the

way for additional criticism of the Drake Greek system. Throughout the fall of 1961, a number of editorials appeared in *The Times-Delphic* questioning the value of the university's fraternities and sororities. One of the most interesting and poignant, which was written in response to a favorable endorsement of the Greek system made by President Harmon at a rush convocation, argued that

The sad point is, however, that the vast majority of Drake's fraternities and sororities live up to none of these ideals.

The students know this. No one really thinks "Scholarship is Number One!" Leaders are not created by fraternities. There is at best a very shallow form of "fellowship and brotherhood."

Fraternities at Drake, and to varying degrees across the nation, have prostituted most of the ideals set down by their founders.

In a university situation there is no place for groups which are anti-truth (remember Panhell's "response" to the SFC discrimination committee?), anti-intellect (six of the 10 fraternity pledge class averages were below a 2.0 for fall 1960), anti-brotherhood (we would rather not even comment on this blotch on the face of Drake), anti-leadership (is there any house on campus that can really pledge anyone they want or make many other decisions without the real leaders coming down from a national or the alums and cracking down?), and anti-university (which comes first when voting for a student candidate—what's good for the house or what's good for Drake?).

Fraternities COULD be important to Drake. Those on campus now are not. The responsibility for recognizing the actual, and making it change to the ideal, rests solely with the administration.¹⁵⁰

This type of commentary, although harsh and somewhat one-sided, may have resulted in the campus fraternities and sororities engaging in some badly needed introspection. Undoubtedly, the Greek-letter groups were as popular as they were prosperous, but along with all their success they had achieved a degree of complacency. There remained room to improve, and this fact became increasingly evident as over the course of the next several years almost every Drake fraternity found its men placed on social, scholastic, or general probation.

However, the negative campus commentaries and the actual problems which existed had no appreciable effect upon the widespread student desire to "go Greek." On October 28, 1961, Phi Delta Delta, a local fraternity organized in the spring of 1957, was

installed as a chapter of Phi Delta Theta.¹ Both the men's and the women's groups were becoming increasingly stronger; even the previously weaker organizations came to achieve financial and numerical stability as enrollment and student interest in affiliation continued to climb. Nine hundred men and women participated in fraternity-sorority rush in the fall of 1962, which represented the largest pool of potential Greeks in the history of the university. One semester later, the number and percentage of Drake students belonging to fraternities reached the highest level since 1950: 539 men, or 27 percent of the total male enrollment, were affiliated; nearly 40 percent of Drake's women held memberships in sororities during this same period.

The satisfaction and encouragement felt as a result of the unprecedented student interest in fraternities and sororities at Drake was shaken somewhat on November 10, 1962, when the university withdrew the recognition of one of its Greek-letter groups—Sigma Phi Epsilon—for repeated behavioral excesses. This action gave Drake's administration cause to re-evaluate the purpose of the organizations; on November 26, 1962, the Office of the Dean of Students released a definitive policy statement entitled "What Drake University Expects of its Fraternities." The statement outlined the minimum responsibilities of each Greek-letter social organization:

The university provides the setting within which the fraternity recruits its members, conducts its programs, and implements its objectives, and it should be remembered that Drake is primarily an educational setting. However, the fraternity exists as an adjunct to the university and its program, not as its central feature, and the continued presence of the fraternity on the campus depends upon the extent to which it makes a positive and useful contribution to the university's total program.

In recognizing fraternities and granting them the privilege of its campus, Drake University expects the following:

1. That each fraternity so conduct itself that its activities do not embarrass the university but, instead, reflect credit upon the moral and ethical standards of the individual group, the fraternity system, and Drake University.
2. That each fraternity establish self-regulating procedures so that misconduct by individual members is initially dealt with on the fraternity level.
3. That each fraternity follow financial prac-

tices and policies which will ensure a consistent and stable fiscal situation.

4. That each fraternity recognize the fundamental nature of the academic program of the university and establish policies and practices which will contribute a satisfactory educational, intellectual, and cultural experience, both for the chapter as a whole and for each individual member.

5. That each fraternity establish and maintain close relationships with its Des Moines alumni so that alumni assistance and guidance becomes a regular feature of chapter operation.

6. That each fraternity actively seek to maintain active communication and cooperation with the Office of the Dean of Students.

7. That each fraternity becomes an active and participating member of the Drake Interfraternity Council, seeking to reduce unproductive interfraternity rivalry and to increase cooperation and mutual understanding.

8. That each residential fraternity maintain housing and dining facilities which equal or exceed reasonable standards of health, safety, and student welfare.

9. That each fraternity seek to involve itself and individual members in activities and projects which will benefit the campus and the local community at large.

10. That each fraternity establish continuing leadership training and indoctrination programs so that pledges and future chapter leaders will inherit and maintain the best traditions and objectives of fraternity life.

It is difficult to accurately assess the effect of the policy statement upon the Drake's fraternities and sororities. It does appear that as the combined result of the suspension of Sigma Phi Epsilon and the subtle warning that Greek-letter social organizations were, if worse came to worse, expendable, fraternities placed a greater emphasis upon making a positive contribution to the university, the community, and the lives of their individual members.

Two interesting developments relating to Drake's fraternities and sororities took place in the fall of 1963. *The Oracle*, the first campus publication by and for the Greek community, was distributed; throughout the decade, it succeeded in its goal of promoting "better understanding of Greek activities, functions, and problems."¹⁵¹ Perhaps of greater impact was the university senate's November 20, 1963 decision to "put teeth in Drake's bias ban"¹⁵² by ruling that "no student organization shall be restricted by local

or national discriminatory clauses of race, religion or national origin."¹⁵³ Compliance with the senate enactment was to be achieved through the filing of a declaration by each fraternity and sorority, along with an acknowledgement from its respective national organization, that it was "free from any restrictions . . . regarding selection."¹⁵⁴ A deadline on filing was set for September 1, 1965; any group which had not filed its declaration by this date would lose its university recognition, and thus would cease to exist. The senate concluded that the ruling was "inevitable and proper despite any loss of freedom"¹⁵⁵ to the Greek-letter groups; the groups themselves feared that there was more at stake, including "the disenfranchisement of most of Drake's chapters by their national organizations."¹⁵⁶ Just a few years earlier, 24 national fraternities and sororities had in fact allowed some of their chapters to lose university recognition rather than sign such declarations; reasonably or otherwise, undergraduate groups had been sacrificed in the belief that autonomy in the selection of members should be preserved at any cost. As the fall of 1965 approached, several national organizations had yet to comply with the university's non-discrimination requirements; in the end, however, all groups complied, and the matter was temporarily set aside.

By the mid-1960s, housing remained a problem for the majority of the fraternities and sororities operating at Drake. The university was quite aware of the lack of suitable housing for the groups, but repeated attempts to solve the situation had proven unsuccessful. In the fall of 1960 Dean of Students Paul A. Bloland began to intensively study "the need for a program of residence living for the national fraternities and sororities on campus";¹⁵⁷ this idea was not particularly innovative, as it had been proposed by Dean Kamm in 1954 and was even considered as early as 1935.¹⁵⁸ However, Bloland's study was unique in that it went beyond the realm of mere possibilities: meetings were held between the administration and fraternity representatives to discuss the desirability of a fraternity-sorority row; the university informally committed land which it owned immediately north of Drake Stadium on 28th and 29th streets for the project; and the availability of federal financing for building purposes was extensively investigated. A 48-page report which examined the feasibility of a fraternity-sorority row and concluded that Drake's "fraternity housing must be improved so it will be equal to that provided by

the university residence halls¹⁵⁹ was presented to President Harmon in the spring of 1962; upon review, Harmon endorsed the plan, stating that "the university . . . is willing to build."¹⁶⁰ During the 1962-63 school year the format and financing of a Drake fraternity-sorority row was researched in detail; the Greek-letter groups cooperated in the effort, and abstained from undertaking any new housing investments or improvements in the hope that the project would become a reality. In time though it appeared that the university was faced with too many alternatives to ever be expected to actually reach a decision, and the fraternities and sororities lost enthusiasm in the concept. The death of President Harmon in 1964 presumably brought the project to an end; although the university continued to pledge its support to the fraternity-sorority row for several years, by 1967 Harmon's successor Dr. Paul Sharp had determined that "the university does not have resources available for this type of program and [felt] that other items must take priority."¹⁶¹ Little note of this decision was taken by the undergraduate groups, who had previously relocated *en masse* to the section of 34th Street between Forest and University avenues, establishing their own Greek Row in the process.

In 1966, criticism of the fraternity system by the university media was renewed. As had been the case five years before, the commentaries were somewhat valid, somewhat spiteful, and somewhat indicative of the shape of things to come. Typical was this editorial appearing in the campus newspaper:

Four times in the last thirty-one semesters the all-fraternity average at Drake has been above the all-men's average. Since 1950, the highest GPA achieved by the fraternities at Drake is 2.3861. Last fall, not one Drake fraternity was above the all-men's average of 2.37 and four fraternity pledge classes had a GPA below a 2.0. The all-fraternity average last semester was 2.25.

These disturbing figures point out a serious weakness in the fraternity system and one of the contributing factors to what has been a gradual but continuous decline in Greek influence at Drake. Drake no longer is a "playground" on the way to a career. Yearly Drake has become more intellectually oriented, and from all indications, fraternities have failed miserably to provide for the better qualified, more intelligent Drake student.

Fraternities across the country still accept drunkenness, tolerate bigotry, champion immorality, and do little to encourage scholarship. And what is even more depressing, Greeks, not just fraternities, are not exerting a positive influence on the Drake community.

The low grades of Drake's fraternities are just one area in which Greeks are failing to meet the challenges of a growing, improving Drake. It is time that the Greeks sensed their shortcomings and begin to exert influence on the Drake community.¹⁶²

Another example, which appeared oddly enough in the university annual, contended that

One of the biggest disappointments of the fraternity system is that all too often the burden of responsibility for leadership and scholarship falls on only a few members. Greek leaders realize this and aim to tighten up their organizations. It is a recognized fact that the Greek system is slowly succumbing due to the increasing sophistication and independence of new students.¹⁶³

For the moment, these views were those of a minority of students; fraternities and sororities remained popular institutions, as evidenced by the addition of Gamma Phi Beta in 1968, and Phi Epsilon Pi a year later; there was no real indication that the *status quo* would be disturbed. Yet change, the one unalterable element of a university community, was on the way. Criticisms would soon catch up with the Greek-letter groups.

¹²⁸Source: dean of students, fraternity scholarship reports. Such statistics would have been presented for earlier years had they been available.

¹²⁹Upon the completion of three new dormitories in 1953, freshmen men were required to spend their first year living on campus. This rule had applied to freshmen women for a number of years.

¹³⁰Minutes, Drake Panhellenic Council, September 7, 1946.

¹³¹Voldseth served as dean of men from 1949-56. He was the first initiate of a national fraternity—

Sigma Chi—known to have occupied the position.

¹³²Fraternity scholarship statistics were first regularly recorded in 1924, and as of 1952 the all-fraternity average had yet to exceed the all men's.

¹³³Ed Voldseth, to Robert Kamm, September 7, 1952.

¹³⁴Id.

¹³⁵Id.

¹³⁶Robert Kamm, to Dr. Melvin Hyde, assistant to the president, Drake University, April 29, 1954.

¹³⁷Id.

¹³⁸Minutes, Alpha Lambda chapter of Delta Gamma, September 20, 1955.

¹³⁹Minutes, Drake University Panhellenic Council, September 23, 1959. In contrast, Drake's fraternities welcomed every eligible and interested man to participate in rush. There was a considerable imbalance between fraternities in terms of chapter size; three groups in particular—Pi Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Phi, and Theta Chi—were hampered by their lack of adequate manpower. In an attempt to correct this imbalance and work toward Dean Kamm's suggested average chapter size of 60 men, the Interfraternity Council considered a constitutional amendment in the fall of 1957 which would have limited each organization to 65 members. The proposed amendment was defeated.

¹⁴⁰In 1947 George Whitmer, vice-chairman of the Plan and Zoning Commission and later mayor of Des Moines, had stated that "this question has bobbed up before and it will again. Let's get it settled once and for all."

¹⁴¹"The Des Moines Tribune," June 23, 1958.

¹⁴²"The Des Moines Tribune," July 25, 1959 (comments of T. Wetherall, vice president, Alpha Phi House Corporation).

¹⁴³Or so it seemed. In the summer of 1980 it was discovered that none of the signs identifying the various fraternity and sorority chapter houses on 34th Street were in compliance with relevant sections of the city code. A request to permit the signs to remain in their existing state was denied by the City Planning and Zoning Department, but was subsequently approved by the Board of Adjustment.

¹⁴⁴"Report of the Special Subcommittee on On-Campus Discriminatory Practices," Student-Faculty Council, Drake University Senate, April 26, 1961, p. 6.

The issue of discrimination by Drake fraternities and sororities had first arisen in 1956 when several members of a professional society had resigned their membership due to the organization's unwillingness to extend membership to minorities. Any controversy at the time provided to be short-lived.

¹⁴⁵Ibid, p. 3.

¹⁴⁶Id.

¹⁴⁷Ibid, pps. 4-5. The problem was not a matter of minorities being unable to participate in the fraternity experience; it was instead the failure of the groups to become integrated. It appears that even the minorities preferred a segregated system. The committee report cited "a semi-formal understanding with the members of the local Jewish group that [other fraternities] would not pledge men of the Jewish faith." Kappa Alpha Psi, which had a predominately black membership, was relatively disinterested in the contro-

versy; when one of its members was asked about the possible effects of other organizations pledging black students, he replied "we'll still get the sharp ones."

¹⁴⁸Ibid, p. 6.

¹⁴⁹Minutes, Drake University Senate, March 21, 1962.

¹⁵⁰"The Drake Times-Delphic," September 15, 1961.

¹⁵¹"The Oracle," November 19, 1963. The discontinuance of the publication for unknown reasons in the late '60s was an unfortunate event. Since that time several other tabloids including "The Greek Grapevine" and "The Greek Street Journal" have come and gone.

¹⁵²"The Des Moines Tribune," November 27, 1963.

¹⁵³Minutes, Drake University Senate, November 20, 1963.

¹⁵⁴Id.

¹⁵⁵Id.

¹⁵⁶"Report from the Special Subcommittee on On-Campus Discriminatory Practices," p. 5. Almost all national fraternities had either removed or taken steps to remove their "White Christian Clauses" by 1965.

Ironically, in 1950 Dean of Men Edward Voldseth had stated that "Drake has not, does not, and—to the best of my ability to predict—will not reject the petition of a social fraternity or sorority to establish a new chapter on this campus because of the presence of constitutional clauses which may restrict membership. Nor do I foresee that it is even remotely probable that the university will ask groups already on the campus to remove such membership-restricting clauses if they are to remain here." Edward Voldseth, to H. C. Sundberg, secretary, Office of the Committee on Membership Requirements, Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, May 17, 1950.

¹⁵⁷Paul Bloland, to Henry Harmon, May 23, 1962.

¹⁵⁸The February 14, 1935 issue of "The Drake Times-Delphic" noted that due to neighborhood complaints and difficulties with the zoning ordinance, "a housing unit for fraternities and sororities on 32nd Street and University Avenue might necessarily be adopted."

¹⁵⁹"A Plan for Fraternity-Sorority Residence Living," Office of the Dean of Students, Drake University, May 23, 1962, p. 9.

¹⁶⁰Henry Harmon, to Paul Bloland, November 1, 1962.

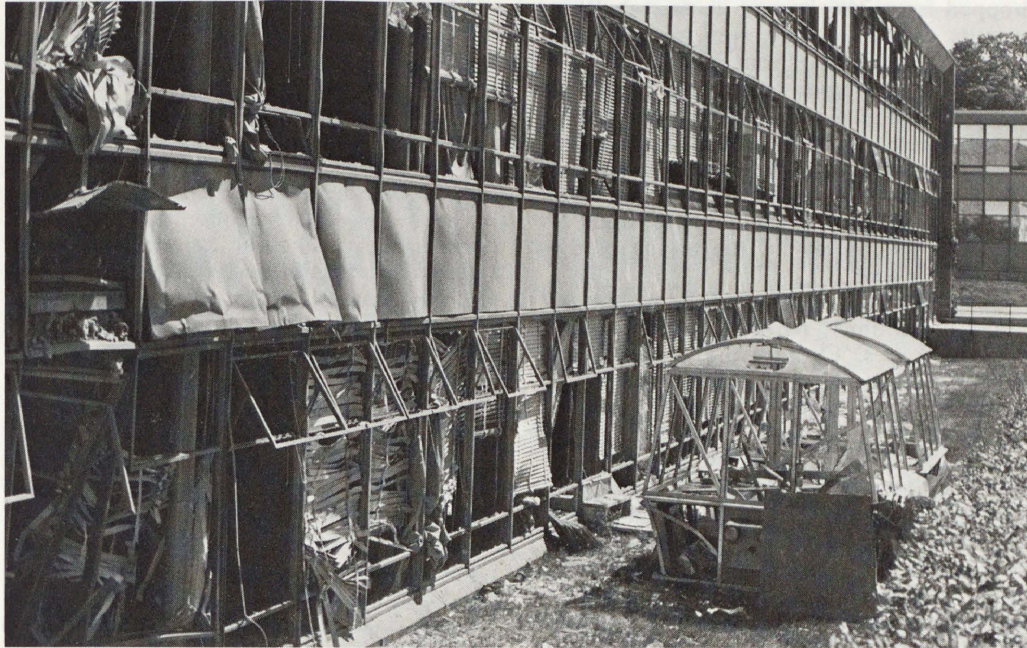
¹⁶¹Arthur L. Casebeer, dean of students, to Stephen Schodde, dean of men, March 1, 1967.

¹⁶²"The Drake Times-Delphic," March 11, 1966.

¹⁶³*The Quax*, Drake University, 1966, p. 227.

IX

The Age Of Uncertainty



Drake University

Winds of change: the aftermath of the bombing of Harvey Ingham Hall, 1970.

Change was slow in coming to the Drake of the 1960s. While opposition to the Viet Nam War and a general anti-establishment sentiment had resulted in student unrest on campuses across the country, in as late as 1968 Drake University had been unaffected by such activity. President Sharp praised Drake's students for having "exercised those qualities of reason and responsibility which befit a university and an intellectual community."¹⁶⁴ Realizing that Drake could not remain "totally immune"¹⁶⁵ from the sense of student activism which was sweeping the nation, 10 voting representatives of the student body were added to the formerly all-faculty university senate in the fall of 1968. Although admirable, this change in campus government would prove inadequate to accommodate a growing sense of students' rights, which would ultimately manifest itself in such ways as the takeover of Old Main to

protest the presence of an ROTC unit at Drake, and the bombing of Harvey Ingham Hall in 1970.¹⁶⁶

While with the passage of time the university had become accustomed to alterations in student attitudes and values, it could not have been prepared for the radical change which developed in the late 1960s and early '70s. The new order of students rejected traditions and institutions which had been revered for decades; they demanded, and to a large extent achieved, an unprecedented level of autonomy. Diametrically opposed to the widely-embraced notion of "doing your own thing" was the concept of fraternity, an entity which was thought to embody the most objectionable attributes of The Establishment. Fraternities and sororities were condemned by the student activist movement for their conformity, superficiality, and suppression of free thought and speech.

Affiliation was analogized to "buying" one's friends, and selling out to the system.

On campuses across the country, membership in fraternities and sororities declined, as did the number of operating chapters. Men's and women's groups at Drake University were not immune from this phenomenon, which made itself evident during 1969-70. While university enrollment remained essentially consistent, the percentage of male students holding membership in fraternities dropped from 24.6 in 1968 to 16.3 in 1970; campus sororities were similarly affected, with affiliation falling from 32.6 to 24.8 percent of Drake women during this same two-year period. Not all groups experienced a proportionate loss in membership, however; the most established and prestigious of Drake's Greek-letter social organizations maintained their strength by attracting those students who had no interest in the affairs of the counter-culture.

Changes were also taking place within the Greek community, particularly in some of the fraternities. Overall, the organizations became increasingly informal in both outlook and operation, resulting in a considerable degree of member apathy. Internal leadership became a rare commodity, as upperclassmen developed a dislike for group living and a preference for the privacy and independence of the apartment. Alumni involvement, for a number of reasons, significantly diminished, and financial management of the organizations left much to be desired. Social activities took on new meaning as structured events became increasingly less formal. The consumption of alcohol gained greater acceptability, as did experimentation with drugs. This state of disorder threatened the continued existence of the groups.

The university, confronted with the newfound freedom of its students, re-examined its role and responsibilities. The policy of *in loco parentis* was largely abandoned; long-standing requirements including the employment of housemothers, chaperoned events, and minimum grade points for initiation were repealed, with fraternities and sororities granted greater independence in the administration of chapter affairs. In 1969 the Office of the Dean of Students was replaced with a more progressive Office of Student Life; the deans of men and women were likewise done away with, and were superseded by staff positions which played a less intrusive role in chapter management. The students had demanded self-governance, and the university had deferred by providing them the

opportunity to learn from their own mistakes.

An event which transpired in the spring of 1969 demonstrated, however, that while the university had cut most of the apron strings the Greek-letter groups had not been left completely unbridled. Two members of Alpha Epsilon Phi accused their sorority of discriminating against a potential member on the basis of her race. While much of the controversy which surrounded the 1963 adoption of the policy on non-discriminatory membership selection had been largely forgotten, the regulation remained in effect and the university was called upon to enforce it. With little hesitation Drake censured Alpha Epsilon Phi, signifying that the university's relationship with the fraternities and sororities had not become a completely passive one.

Ironically, discrimination against Jewish women had resulted in the establishment of Alpha Epsilon Phi in 1952, and it was discrimination by Alpha Epsilon Phi itself which contributed to its own demise. Alpha Epsilon Phi left the Drake campus in 1973, after having been unable to fully recover its credibility following the 1969 rush incident, and considerably weakened by the fact that other sororities had come to frequently pledge Jewish women, a segment of the student population it formerly monopolized.

The decline in the popularity of Greek affiliation had not gone unnoticed, and in the midst of uncertainty fraternity and sorority members attempted to debunk the belief that "the time is drawing near for the system to pack up and move to the attic, along side the Elvis Presley records and skinny ties."¹⁶⁷ In a September 10, 1971 *Delphic* article entitled "Are Greeks Running Scared? Most at Drake Don't Think So," the comments of a number of affiliated students reflected the ability of fraternities and sororities to adapt to the changing times. One member remarked "if houses can't relate, they deserve to fold. There's no longer an automatic demand for fraternities and sororities. You must create one." Another noted that "We're spending more time talking and less time singing, but really, the changes don't belong to the seniors, but to the freshmen. The future of the Greeks belongs to them." Perhaps most enlightening was the comment of a sorority initiate, who stated her belief that "the only way it's going to change is with the incoming people. During rush we're trying to stress that you are a member of a group, but that you're still an individual. We're emphasizing the 'who are you,' not the 'what are you tak-

ing?'" Offering an example to demonstrate that the Greeks had in fact become more practical, the sorority member went on to say "it used to be that we weren't allowed to discuss boys or sex or religion with the rushers. That control of conversation is gone."

From 1971-75, Drake's fraternities instituted further changes, became less controversial, and slowly reached stability. Belief that the system would in fact endure was evidenced by the fact that several national fraternities and sororities expressed interest in colonizing at the university during this period. Demands by faculty and unaffiliated students for a deferred rush program—which had proven to be both unpopular and counterproductive in 1949—were frequently made, and in spite of resistance by the Greek community such a program was instituted in the fall of 1973. Apparently, the deferred recruitment of members in 1973 again failed to achieve the desired results, as the program was not repeated in the years which immediately followed.

In July 1972 Dr. Wilbur C. Miller was installed as president of Drake University. A national fraternity initiate, Miller had joined the campus chapter of Alpha Tau Omega immediately prior to the outbreak of World War II.

In 1976, Drake lost two of its Greek-letter social organizations: the 55-year old chapter of Alpha Xi Delta, and a shorter-lived Zeta Beta Tau.¹⁶⁸ Although the percentage of students choosing to affiliate had not yet begun to increase, the Interfraternity Council—perhaps believing that some "new blood" might help rejuvenate the Greek system—sought the addition of another national fraternity. After reviewing a number of requests to colonize, Phi Gamma Delta and Sigma Chi were invited to the campus to discuss their extension policies; the latter of these two national organizations was given permission to establish a group at Drake, which was undertaken in the fall of 1976. During the same year, the chapters of two predominately black national fraternities were recognized by the university: Alpha Phi Alpha and Omega Psi Phi. The Panhellenic Council discussed the possibility of expansion in 1977, but the instability of Delta Zeta and Gamma Phi Beta resulted in a tabling of the matter.

The era of student activism and unrest having come to an end, the university once again re-examined its relationship with student groups, and the campus Greeks in particular. Following the elimination of the deans of men, women, and students, the responsibility of advising fraternities and

sororities was divided among the student life staff. While the women's groups continued to receive counsel from Marjorie Cunningham, who had served as Panhellenic advisor since 1952, the fraternities did not have the benefit of such continuity. Instead, the men's groups had been supervised by a variety of individuals including graduate students, interns, hall directors, and full-time staff members. As early as 1973, such haphazard advising had troubled Vice President of Student Life Donald Adams, who was

convinced that working with the fraternities and sororities is going to take *more* time than we have given to them for many years. We must be able to work closely enough with the presidents and other officers of the houses that we "can make things happen" for them.¹⁶⁹

The situation remained relatively unchanged for the next two years, leading Adams to state that "one of the problems is that we've removed all of the adult involvement from the Greeks. But as soon as we can shake some money loose we'll hire a full-time advisor."¹⁷⁰ Such funding was made available in 1977, when the university senate's Long Range Planning Committee approved a recommendation made by its student subcommittee, as well as the Panhellenic and Interfraternity councils, to create a full-time staff position with the responsibility of advising campus Greek-letter groups.

The creation of the position—which was designated as the coordinator of Greek affairs—did not meet with unanimous favor. *The Drake Times-Delphic* in particular criticized the action, asserting that

the university's "need" for the Greek system's continuance is unfortunate, but that doesn't excuse spending thousands of dollars a year to hire a Greek advisor.

Allocating university funds to assist with Greek social activities and recruitment is a violation of Drake's non-discriminatory policy and an abuse of student tuition.

It is nothing less than prostitution of the values of a university community dedicated to intellectual growth and social justice.

Better by far to let Greeks be. Let them exist, but don't hand them money.¹⁷¹

As a contrast, Drake's fraternities and sororities were grateful for this show of support on the part of the university. A selection committee composed of students and staff chose Robert J. Kerr to fill the Greek advisor post, which was made operational on August 1, 1977.

Shortly after his appointment, Kerr proposed that "Drake University institute minimum chapter standards for the Greek system. By doing this we can ensure that we at least agree with the direction our Greeks are going and also that the Greeks will have a definitive standard to measure themselves."¹⁷² The minimum chapter standards proposal included guidelines relating to chapter size, finances, scholarship, educational programming and pledge training. The guidelines were to be reviewed, approved, and implemented by the university and the Panhellenic and Interfraternity councils, with a requirement that all groups achieve the standards by May 1979. Failure to do so was to result in a loss of university recognition, which would "probably lead to the ultimate loss of the chapter's charter."¹⁷³

Although some organizations recognized the merits of Kerr's proposal, others interpreted it as a threat to their autonomy. This latter sentiment prevailed, with both the Panhellenic and Interfraternity councils ultimately rejecting the standards.¹⁷⁴

In the late 1970s, colleges throughout the nation were witnessing the resurgence of popularity in Greek affiliation. However, membership in Drake's fraternities and sororities had yet to return to the impressive levels of the 1950s and '60s. Additionally, groups operating on the campus were awkwardly imbalanced in terms of their size; organizations tended to be either relatively large or dangerously small. The return to a deferred rushing system—which typically favored the larger and more "popular" chapters—in the fall of 1978 resulted in ever greater disparity. In spite of the fact that rush was held earlier in the fall semester in 1979, the number of men and women participating—including the smallest group of women since World War II—was disastrous. In October 1979 Delta Zeta announced the closing of its Drake chapter, leaving the university with six sororities, the smallest number since 1946.

Finally, in the fall of 1980, the number of students participating in the formal recruitment process began to increase. At the conclusion of the semester Phi Sigma Chi, which had operated for four years as a colony of Sigma Chi, was installed as a chapter of the national fraternity.

The early 1980s saw a degree of prosperity return to the Greek community. As the number of students participating in rush continued to increase, the average chapter size for both fraternities and sororities improved. In 1981 five predominately black organizations—Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alpha Phi Alpha,

Delta Sigma Theta, Kappa Alpha Psi, and Omega Psi Phi—established the Drake chapter of the National Pan-Hellenic Council to provide a forum for their common concerns and interests. The following year the Greek Week Steering Committee became the Greek Programming Council, a body designed to provide fraternity-sorority programming throughout the entire school year.

With the growth in affiliation, a problem which had not confronted Drake Greeks for some time resurfaced: overcrowded chapter houses. Residency requirements were revised to actually limit the number of individuals eligible for housing contracts. Unfortunately, not all of the 21 chapters of national organizations represented at the university could boast of such "problems"; in the spring of 1982 Alpha Epsilon Pi left Drake, and the national office of Gamma Phi Beta began an extensive reorganization effort to revitalize its campus group. These efforts met with minimal success, and at the close of the 1982-83 school year Gamma Phi Beta also left the university.

In 1982 the Office of Greek Life—which had replaced the Office of Greek Affairs two years before—investigated the possibility of expanding the Drake fraternity-sorority system. Two expansion committees—which separately examined the addition of a fraternity and a sorority—were established; chaired by Coordinator of Greek Life Sheree L. Clark, the committees were composed of officers from the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils, representatives from the undergraduate chapters, and university alumni. The consideration of requests to colonize were taken up in April 1982, with the goal of the endorsement of a fraternity and a sorority by the following November. The two national organizations chosen by the committee would then be permitted to establish groups on campus in the fall of 1983.

In meetings held during the summer months of 1982, the expansion committees each selected three groups for purposes of final consideration. The Sorority Expansion Committee decided upon Alpha Omicron Pi, Delta Delta Delta, and Pi Beta Phi, while the Fraternity Expansion Committee narrowed its choices to Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Kappa Psi, and Sigma Nu. However, by early fall the latter committee began to question the feasibility of adding an additional fraternity at Drake; the numerical and/or financial conditions of three of the nine men's organizations on campus—Alpha Tau Omega, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and Tau Kappa Epsilon—gave cause for concern. Additionally, the university's

enrollment, which had been slowly decreasing since its all-time peak in 1965, had experienced a noticeable decline in the fall of 1982. Concluding that "it is the opinion of the university that there is a moral obligation to the existing groups and their alumni, and that all energies within the Office of Greek Life should be centered on stabilization,"¹⁷⁵ in September 1982 the fraternity expansion process was terminated. In the meantime, the Sorority Expansion Committee had extended an invitation to Pi Beta Phi to establish a Drake chapter. Upon the request of Pi Beta Phi, the Panhellenic Council granted the national organization permission to begin its colonization efforts in March 1983.

On July 9, 1983, the Drake Archives of Greek Achievement were formally dedicated. The archives, assembled over a two-year period by Sheree L. Clark and Drake alumnus Lynden Lyman, consisted of a collection of 56 membership badges representing the fraternities and sororities which had existed at the university since 1891. These badges were placed in a custom-designed display, which was purchased with proceeds from the 1982 performance of Sweetheart Sing. Over 100 alumni, faculty, administrators, and undergraduates attended the dedication ceremony, which was highlighted by an address delivered by Maurice Littlefield, executive director, Sigma Nu. Littlefield's presence was appropriate as Sigma Nu was the first Greek-

letter social society to be established at Drake University.

In the summer of 1983, the university announced that it would "require second-year students, beginning with the class that enters Drake in the fall of 1984, to live in dorms or in a fraternity or a sorority."¹⁷⁶ Previously, only freshmen students were required to live on campus; under the new ruling, sophomores were permitted to reside in Greek chapter houses, provided that they possessed a predetermined grade point average and had obtained a valid release from a university committee.

As of the fall of 1983, 508 men and 487 women—approximately 30 percent of Drake University's eligible full-time undergraduate enrollment—were members in 20 distinguished and diverse national fraternity and sorority chapters on campus. The age of uncertainty as to their future has not yet come to a close, but their endurance seems likely. Drake's fraternities and sororities have survived two world wars, economic disasters, and the never-ending changes in student attitudes, norms, and values. If these organizations continue to work closely with the university, and the university continues to provide a favorable environment for their operation, Drake's fraternities and sororities should be able to add many more pages to an already impressive history.

¹⁶⁴"The Drake Times-Delphic," September 18, 1968.

¹⁶⁵Id.

¹⁶⁶The blast from the bombing, which occurred on June 29, 1970, was heard throughout the City of Des Moines. Over \$250,000 in damage was sustained by the building, its contents, and nearby Fitch Hall. Neither a motive for the bombing nor the identification of those responsible was ever learned.

¹⁶⁷"The Drake Times-Delphic," September 10, 1971.

¹⁶⁸The Drake chapter of Phi Epsilon Pi had become a chapter of Zeta Beta Tau when the two national fraternities merged in 1970.

¹⁶⁹Donald Adams, to Marjorie Cunningham, assistant to the vice president, student life, December 21, 1973.

¹⁷⁰"The Drake Times-Delphic," May 2, 1975.

¹⁷¹"The Drake Times-Delphic," October 11, 1977.

¹⁷²"Minimum Chapter Proposal Report," Robert J. Kerr, undated.

¹⁷³Id.

¹⁷⁴However, Kerr was able to convince the alumni advisors of Drake's fraternities to adopt the proposal in the form of "Standards for Excellence," which did not require compliance but did serve as a set of minimum goals for each organization to achieve.

¹⁷⁵Sheree L. Clark, to the executive directors of Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Kappa Psi, and Sigma Nu, undated.

¹⁷⁶"The Des Moines Register," August 19, 1983.

Alpha Epsilon Pi

Founded November 7, 1913, at New York University. Total charter grants: 132, of which 58 remain active. Total initiates: 48,250. Colors: gold and blue; flower: the fleur-de-lis.

The Drake Men's Club founded 1935; installed as the 25th or **Alpha Deuteron** chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity February 28, 1937. Declared non-operating March 3, 1982.

ALPHA EPSILON PI ignored the lessons of history when it placed a chapter at Drake University in the spring of 1937. A decade earlier Phi Beta Delta—a national fraternity similar in many respects to Alpha Epsilon Pi, including its predominately Jewish membership—had proven unsuccessful in maintaining a group on campus. Following Phi Beta Delta's demise in 1930, the population of male Jewish students had not significantly increased, and there was no particular reason to believe that conditions at Drake were such that a similarly homogeneous group could survive; nevertheless, Alpha Epsilon Pi was adamant in its belief that the institution was a prime location for one of its chapters.¹ Ultimately, Alpha Epsilon Pi's intuition won out, with its Drake or Alpha Deuteron chapter providing a fraternal experience for nearly 700 men over the course of 45 years.

The origin of Alpha Deuteron was in the Drake Men's Club. Founded in 1935 by Drake law student Joseph Z. Marks '38, the organization was established as a response to the failure of the existing campus fraternities to extend membership to students of the Jewish faith. Marks, who was initially joined by Robert Caplan '39,² Bill Luftman '39, and Irwin Mitchnik '38, conducted meetings in his family's home, located at 1215 Eighth Street. In 1936, after membership in the Drake Men's Club had doubled and its internal structure proved workable, national affiliation was investigated.³ Alpha Epsilon Pi, Phi Beta Delta, Phi Epsilon Pi, Sigma Alpha Mu, and Zeta Beta Tau all expressed interest, and several of these organizations sent representatives to confer with the Drake local fraternity; Phi Beta Delta was particularly anxious to revive its dormant chapter and impressed



The 10 charter members of Alpha Deuteron chapter; their efforts in bringing Alpha Epsilon Pi to campus resulted in a more diverse fraternity system at Drake University.

the opportunity upon the group's membership. However, the Drake Men's Club was highly partial to Alpha Epsilon Pi as a result of the efforts of Samuel H. Shapiro (Delta, Illinois), who was then serving on the fraternity's national council. Shapiro convinced the group that affiliation with Alpha Epsilon Pi would be in its best interest, and upon the unanimous concurrence of the Drake Men's Club he assisted it in the preparation of a petition. The petition was received by Alpha Epsilon Pi on August 27, 1936, at which time it was accepted "conditional on the approval of the university authorities."⁴ The Drake Men's Club took on the status of a "pledge chapter" of the national fraternity and assumed the name of Alpha Epsilon.⁵

Installation of Alpha Epsilon as Alpha Deuteron chapter⁶ of Alpha Epsilon Pi was conducted on February 28, 1937,⁷ at the Chamberlain Hotel. Officiating over the initiation of ten charter members⁸ were Samuel H. Shapiro, who had recently been elected national vice president of Alpha Epsilon Pi,⁹ and Isidore E. Goldberg (Nu, Marquette), a member of the fraternity's national council. Attending the banquet following the ceremonies were Dr. Daniel W. Morehouse, president, Drake University; Willard Johnson, dean of men; E. C. Lytton, university business manager; and Herbert Bohlman, professor in the College of Commerce and Finance and faculty advisor to the fraternity.¹⁰

Although the membership of Alpha Deuteron was considerably smaller than those of other Drake fraternities, the chapter immediately became involved in all phases of campus life. Beginning in the spring of 1938, the chapter won the fraternity scholarship cup for the first of seven consecutive semesters, a record which has stood for 45 years. In the fall of 1938, Alpha Deuteron secured its first chapter house; located at 1001 31st Street, the residence was occupied by 10 members. A year later, the house was given up "because of certain financial reasons."¹¹ The 16-man chapter moved its meetings to an apartment occupied by several members, and later to the family home of President Bernard Marks '41, where the Drake Men's Club had first organized.

Chapter growth again permitted Alpha Deuteron to operate a chapter house in the fall of 1941; however, its maintenance of the residence which was located at 1112 27th Street was short-lived. Due to the onset of World War II, the chapter house was vacated in 1942. The last of Alpha Deuteron's membership entered the service in 1943, resulting in the chapter being declared inactive.

The re-establishment of Alpha Deuteron following V-J Day proved to be a difficult task. In December 1944 George S. Toll (Gamma, Pennsylvania), who was then serving as chairman of Alpha Epsilon Pi's extension committee, had written to Drake University requesting "the names and Des Moines addresses of all Jewish men now on the campus";¹² the administration responded with the names of three students, a quantity which was hardly sufficient to restore Alpha Deuteron. Few of the chapter's members returned to Drake following their discharge from the armed forces, and the few that did were unable to reorganize the fraternity.

George S. Toll, who in 1946 had become executive director of the national fraternity, traveled to Drake in March of the same year. During his visit he made contact with Samuel Bobb '48, an Alpha Deuteron initiate who was interested in reviving the chapter. Through the repeated assistance of Toll, Bobb was able to pledge ten men during the spring semester of 1946, six of whom were initiated. On April 23, 1946, Toll was notified by Dean of Students George S. Beery that Alpha Deuteron had been officially reinstated as a student organization.

In the fall of 1946 Alpha Deuteron, "having broken a war-enforced hibernation,"¹³ succeeded in pledging 41 men. The increase in membership significantly strengthened the chapter, but Alpha Deuteron's revitalization was soon threatened by the attempts of several national Jewish fraternities to establish groups on campus. Phi Epsilon Pi and Tau Delta Phi were both eager to colonize at Drake, while the national office of Alpha Epsilon Pi took the position that "it is very obvious that Drake cannot support two strong fraternities primarily for Jewish men."¹⁴ After consideration of the issue, the university's administration agreed, concluding that "at the present time, it does not seem that there is a sufficient number [of available students] to encourage any other Jewish fraternity to colonize."¹⁵

Although the membership of Alpha Deuteron stood at 50 men by the conclusion of 1947, the chapter had been forced to operate without the benefit of housing. The unavailability of suitable real estate during the post-war period proved to be a handicap to a majority of the university's fraternities and sororities, and was a significant factor behind the decision made by many prestigious organizations against colonizing at Drake during the period. Alpha Deuteron's alumni had considered the purchase of a residence located at 1335 34th Street, but doubted the



Alpha Epsilon Pi's chapter house from 1953-68 was this Georgian structure which had been built before the turn of the century. Located at 2813 Cottage Grove Avenue, the property had originally served as a boarding house.

likelihood of obtaining a zoning variance to enable the use of the structure as a fraternity house.¹⁶ Instead, in 1948 a residence was acquired at 2816 Cottage Grove Avenue. When membership approached 70 men in 1950, it became apparent that the chapter house would be inadequate. Extensive remodeling was initially considered, but in 1953 an impressive Georgian-style apartment building located at 2813 Cottage Grove Avenue became available. It was purchased by Alpha Deuteron, which remodeled the structure and constructed an addition to its rear, enabling it to house 26 men.

During the 1950s the Drake chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi emerged as a true fraternity competitor. Having obtained a large and stable membership, functional housing, and supportive alumni, Alpha Deuteron embarked on a 20-year period of excellence in all fields of endeavor.¹⁷

In 1961 several Alpha Deuteron pledges, dissatisfied with "a number of practices of Alpha Epsilon Pi which they felt would be out of place in any group they wanted to belong to,"¹⁸ left the organization with the intent to form a second Jewish fraternity at Drake. In considering their request to do so, the university conceded that internal conditions within the chapter had undergone a degeneration, and that "Alpha Epsilon Pi has a very poor reputation on campus among other Greeks and with non-Greeks as well. Many fine Jewish boys refuse to affiliate."¹⁹ However, the university also realized the limited Jewish enrollment and the fact that

Alpha Epsilon Pi has been on the Drake campus for about 25 years and we owe them the courtesy of not taking any action which would result in weakening them . . . we should devote our attention to strengthening it before we begin to think of a competitive group.²⁰

Shortly thereafter "an illegal cocktail party" resulted in Alpha Deuteron being fined \$400 and placed on probation for one year, but the university maintained its position of giving the chapter the benefit of the doubt.



Ground breaking ceremonies mark the beginning of construction on Alpha Deuteron's 1219 34th Street chapter house, March 1, 1968.

Alpha Epsilon Pi

Although tacit encouragement was given to the Phi Sigma Club—a group loosely affiliated with the national Jewish fraternity Phi Sigma Delta—the university, Alpha Deuteron's alumni, and the national fraternity worked in tandem to improve the chapter. By the mid-1960s Alpha Deuteron had made significant progress internally, and the Phi Sigma Club disbanded.

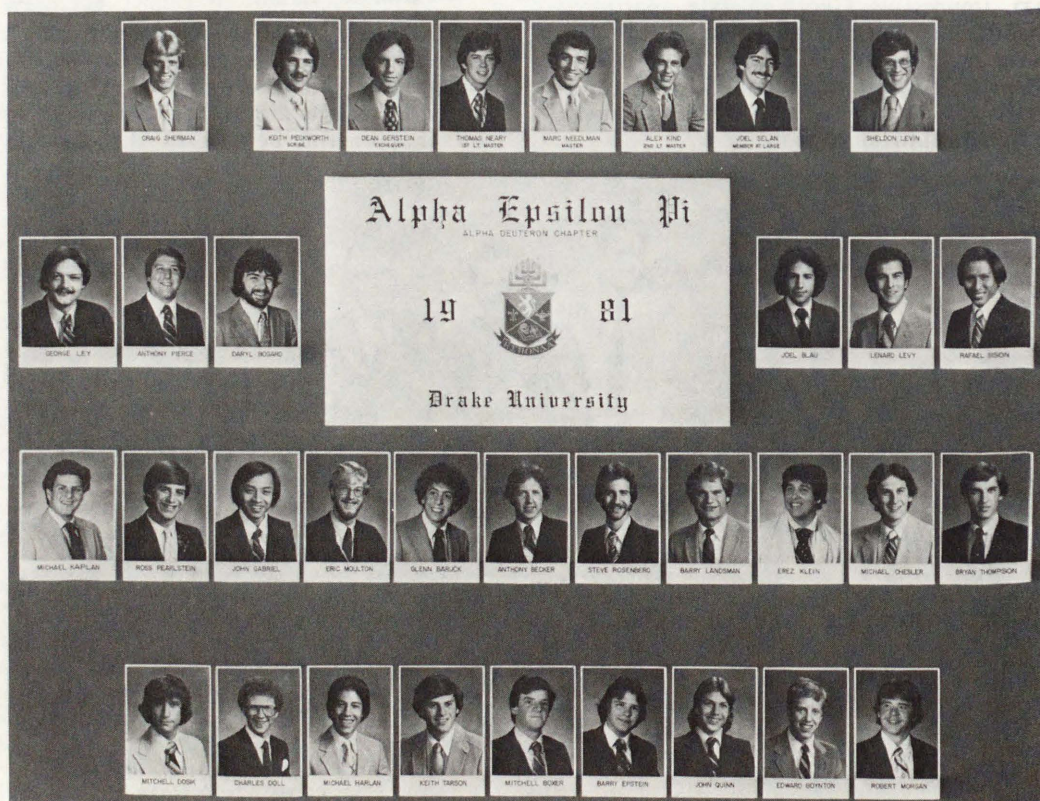
During the fall semesters of 1966 and 1967 Alpha Deuteron enjoyed great success in membership recruitment, gaining 31 and 37 pledges, respectively. With a total membership of 87 men in 1967—making it the second largest fraternity at Drake University—the chapter again found itself with inadequate housing, and felt particularly isolated from “Greek Street” living on Cottage Grove Avenue. Through the assistance of Albert Kogutt (Gamma Deuteron, Texas), a regional official, the chapter purchased a residence located at 1219 34th Street from the Disciples of Christ Church. Construction on the rear of the building, which would allow the residence to accommodate 34 men, was begun on March 1, 1968; on April 27, 1969, the chapter house was formally dedicated. Past National President Abner I. Klein (Delta

Illinois) presented a keynote address, which was heard by members, parents, Drake faculty, and Executive Director George S. Toll.²¹

Following the relocation to 34th Street, the fraternity achieved even higher levels of success. In 1971 Alpha Deuteron—whose membership had become largely non-Jewish—received Alpha Epsilon Pi's Outstanding Chapter Award; that fall the fraternity pledged 35 men. In 1972 the fraternity was again selected as the superior chapter nationally. Drake's administration was impressed with the organization, and one staff member concluded that

Overall, I would rank Alpha Epsilon Pi as the fraternity which is setting the example for our campus. The leadership within their house has been very good, and they are currently showing a very positive attitude towards the entire fraternity system.²²

However, shortly thereafter Alpha Deuteron encountered difficulty in defining a new course; “it seemed as if there were no more worlds to conquer, and the chapter began to decline.”²³ A semester at a time, the fraternity's membership and campus involvement diminished; in the fall of 1976, Alpha Deu-



The men of Alpha Deuteron, 1981; one year later, the fraternity bade farewell to Drake University.

teron consisted of 35 men. The chapter encountered financial difficulty and turned to the national fraternity for assistance, which, through 1978, loaned it \$50,000.²⁴ The large investment proved to be only a temporary expedient, as the chapter's situation failed to improve. Internal discord arose between Alpha Deuteron's membership and Robert Marks (Iota Upsilon, Iowa), Alpha Deuteron's advisor and a regional official, as to revitalization of the chapter. At the conclusion of the spring 1981 semester, a majority of the chapter's members withdrew their affiliation with the fraternity.

Still, a handful of individuals were unwilling to allow the organization to die. Marc Needlman '82, president of the Drake Interfraternity Council and a past president of Alpha Deuteron, attempted to recruit new members from the Chicago area during the summer of 1981. Remaining members fought off rumors of Alpha Deuteron's dormancy; however, at the commencement of the fall semester the opposite appeared to be true. Membership recruitment was handled almost exclusively by Robert Marks and Steven M. Lury (Rho, Rhode Island), a member of the Alpha Epsilon Pi national office staff. A total of eight men were pledged; their initiation into the fraternity followed two weeks later. Eight additional members from the previous school year were included on Alpha Deuteron's roster, although their involvement was minimal and none resided in the chapter house. One of the fall initiates took up residence in the once-burgeoning structure, which for all intents and purposes had become vacant.²⁵

Alpha Epsilon Pi had originally intended to conduct a second membership drive in the fall, followed by an intensive campaign during the spring of 1982. However, such efforts were postponed indefinitely when seven of the eight fall initiates resigned from membership on December 3, 1981. The seven men explained their motivation by stating that

At the beginning of our pledgship, we all felt that we could pull the fraternity out of its deteriorated state. We all experienced delusions of grandeur in our hope to rebuild a strong Jewish fraternity. During the preceeding months it has become exceedingly difficult to foresee any future development for the betterment of the fraternity.

On January 27, 1982, the university, uncertain of the status of Alpha Deuteron, contacted the national office of Alpha Epsilon Pi with a set of standards "essential to the continuation of the Drake chapter."²⁶ The six

standards included a minimum membership of 12 underclassmen; a sound pledge education program; an active and involved chapter advisor; a three-year plan for chapter redevelopment; consistent involvement in the Interfraternity Council; and a permanent caretaker for the unoccupied chapter house. The correspondence which delineated the standards stated in closing that

If your office is unwilling to agree to these minimum goals without offering sound reason or if the goals are not met, it will be our recommendation to Alpha Epsilon Pi that you withdraw from the campus at the end of the 1981-82 academic year.

On March 3, 1982, Alpha Epsilon Pi notified Drake University that "the charter of [Alpha Deuteron] chapter has been suspended pending revival, and all local obligations are being met by the national fraternity."²⁷

Throughout its history, Alpha Deuteron was the recipient of numerous national awards, including:

- Outstanding Community Service (1951)
- Goodwill Award for Jewish/Non-Jewish Relations (1954)
- Best Convention Delegation (1957, 1974)
- Outstanding Chapter Secretary (Edwin "Ned" Ribback '59, 1958)
- Outstanding Chapter Treasurer (Lawrence Schneider '73, 1971)
- Outstanding Chapter (1971, 1972)

The chapter was not known to have published an alumni newsletter per se, although a booklet entitled *The Alphas* was distributed annually at the fraternity's formal dance. A liaison, Daughters of the Gold Lion, was recognized by Drake University on February 17, 1969.

Alpha Deuteron's most noted alumnus is Charles Duchon '40, past chairman of the board of Younker Brothers Department Stores. Fred Felton '51, an Alpha Deuteron initiate, was instrumental in organizing a chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi at the University of Iowa (Iota Upsilon) following his transfer to the institution in 1949. Irving Axelrod '52, has provided leadership for the national organization, having served as national governor (1974-76), national sergeant-at-arms (1976-77), national treasurer (1977-79), and national secretary (1979-83). Lawrence Schneider acted as an undergraduate governor from 1971-72.²⁸

During its 42 years of operation (taking into account the chapter's inactivity during World War II), Alpha Deuteron initiated 665 men.

¹Quite possibly, for many years Drake University had been in a position to "support" a Jewish fraternity; it was the opinion of some that Phi Beta Delta had simply mismanaged its opportunity to build a strong group on campus. Such chapter mismanagement may have played a role in Phi Beta Delta's 1941 decision to merge with the national fraternity Pi Lambda Phi, at which time less than half of its 34 chapters were functioning.

²Caplan, who subsequently changed his name to Carson, transferred to Columbia University with the aid of an Alpha Epsilon Pi scholarship in the fall of 1937 in an unsuccessful attempt to revive the fraternity's Iota chapter. In 1966 Carson produced *Something of Value*, a film promoting Alpha Epsilon Pi.

³Interestingly enough, Alpha Epsilon Pi had already contacted Drake University requesting the names and addresses of Jewish students. George S. Toll, extension secretary, Alpha Epsilon Pi, to Raymond O. Davies, dean of men, Drake University, July 27, 1934.

⁴Leon B. Traub, national president, Alpha Epsilon Pi, to Willard Johnson, dean of men, Drake University, August 27, 1936.

⁵During the mid-1930s, Alpha Epsilon Pi was the designation conferred upon most groups awaiting installation by Alpha Epsilon Pi.

⁶A resolution adopted during Alpha Epsilon Pi's 1936 Atlanta convention stipulated that following the installation of Omega chapter, charter grants would utilize the term Deuteron in their designation to denote the repetition of the Greek alphabet. Thus, under the more common system of chapter nomenclature, Alpha Deuteron was the equivalent of Alpha Alpha. This system of chapter designation was dropped by Alpha Epsilon Pi prior to reaching the triton, or third repetition stage.

⁷Omega chapter was installed at the University of North Carolina on the same day.

⁸Ray Arbitman, Robert M. Caplan, Sidney T. Elder, Louis Jaroslavsky, Alfred Lipsey, Joseph Z. Marks (president), Irwin Mitchnik, Earl Shapiro, Myron Schatz, and Roland Young.

Alpha Epsilon also had four pledges who were not initiated during its installation, including Charles Duchon.

⁹In 1938, Shapiro became the national president of Alpha Epsilon Pi. A year later he was succeeded by Goldberg.

¹⁰Bohlman, who would serve as dean of the College of Business from 1954-65, was active in the affairs of Alpha Deuteron throughout his tenure at Drake. In 1947, he was initiated by the chapter.

¹¹"The Drake Times-Delphic," October 10, 1939.

¹²George S. Toll, to the dean of men, Drake University, December 15, 1944.

¹³"The Drake Times-Delphic," October 4, 1946.

¹⁴George S. Toll, to George S. Beery, April 22, 1947.

¹⁵Minutes, Faculty Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, December 8, 1947.

¹⁶Kappa Alpha Theta, who simultaneously considered purchase of the property, eventually acquired the residence. The risk involved proved to be well-planned, as the sorority was able to obtain a zoning variance from the City of Des Moines.

¹⁷Although Alpha Deuteron won few of the most coveted Greek and campus competitions during the period, it did not suffer from lack of involvement. A detailed chronology of the chapter's accomplishments can be found in George S. Toll's monumental work, *Alpha Epsilon Pi: The First 65 Years* (Fullerton, Missouri: Ovid Bell Press, 1980), pps. 599-604.

For several years it appeared that Alpha Deuteron's only problem was with its neighbors. In the fall of 1956, "a signed complaint petition of 47 names constituting 30 families" residing near the chapter house requested that the university "not allow any of them to return to Drake, and that if you do, you separate them into small groups so that they cannot disturb the neighborhood." Although a year earlier Dean of Students Robert Kibbee had placed the chapter on social probation for maintaining a chapter house "as something of a sanctuary where members are no longer accountable as citizens of the university community," the situation was ultimately left to the chapter to resolve.

¹⁸Paul Boland, dean of students, memo to the files, February 10, 1961.

¹⁹Id.

²⁰Paul Boland, to Henry Harmon, president, Drake University, February 23, 1961.

²¹The chapter house, at one time arguably the best facility on campus, sustained \$15,000 damage as a result of a third-floor fire on December 15, 1972.

²²Kenneth Vegors, administrative assistant to the vice president of student life, to Dr. Stephen Schodde, coordinator of student development services, mid-year report, April 21, 1972.

²³Toll, p. 604

²⁴Sidney N. Dunn, executive director, Alpha Epsilon Pi, to Joel Blau, president, Alpha Deuteron, September 12, 1979.

²⁵During the summer of 1981, Alpha Epsilon Pi considered exchanging chapter houses with Phi Delta Theta, in order to more economically

accommodate its reduced membership. Although nothing became of the negotiations, it is interesting to note that in 1963 Phi Delta Theta had considered purchasing what subsequently became the Alpha Epsilon Pi chapter house.

²⁶Sheree L. Clark, coordinator of Greek life, to Sidney N. Dunn.

²⁷Sidney N. Dunn, to Sheree L. Clark.

²⁸Since 1969 the national council of Alpha Epsilon Pi has included two undergraduate representatives.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Joseph Z. Marks, founder of the Drake's Men's Club, charter member of Alpha Deuteron chapter, 1954 recipient of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award, and long-time supporter of fraternity movement at Drake University. Appreciation is also extended to George S. Toll for his research as documented in *Alpha Epsilon Pi: The First 65 Years*.

Alpha Phi Alpha

Founded December 4, 1906, at Cornell University. Colors: black and gold.

A group of students from Iowa State College and Drake University installed as the 34th or Alpha Nu chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity April 10, 1922; declared inactive 1949; charter restored to Drake University May 1, 1976.



These six men, which comprised Alpha Phi Alpha's post-war membership, struggled in vain to gain university recognition of their fraternity.

ALPHA PHI ALPHA was arguably the first predominately black fraternity at Drake University. Although the April 10, 1922 installation of Alpha Nu chapter by National Vice President Ray Cannon (Mu, Minneapolis) took place at Iowa State College in Ames, one of the seven charter members,¹ Charles P. Howard '22, was a Drake University law student, as well as a member of the football and track teams. Thus, it appears that Alpha Nu was established as a community chapter, with the authority to initiate students from Iowa State as well as Drake.²

Little is known of the early operations of Alpha Nu. It is presumed that the chapter continued to initiate Drake students, although such candidates were limited in number due to the small enrollment of blacks in the university during the 1920s. Alpha Nu's contact with Drake appears to have been minimal as the organization was not formally recognized, and it is questionable if the university was even aware of its existence. In approximately 1933 the undergraduate chapter became inactive due to the Depression, and any Drake students which would have been initiated into the fraternity thereafter

would have done so through the local alumni group, Zeta Kappa Lambda.

Following World War II Alpha Phi Alpha emerged on the Drake campus, and made a bid for university recognition. In May 1947 Alpha Nu petitioned the Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs for recognition as a Drake student organization and for affiliation with the Interfraternity Council (IFC); since the group "did not meet the standards of a bona fide social fraternity on this campus, no action was taken."³ Alpha Phi Alpha's membership of six men continued to seek recognition, but by March 1948 neither the committee nor the IFC felt that it was "an appropriate time to approve this organization's affiliation."⁴ In spite of the fact that Alpha Nu had the second highest scholarship of all Drake fraternities for the spring semester of 1949, and that its president, Lawrence C. Howard '49, had been selected Alpha Man of the Year by the national organization in view of his personal accomplishments which included membership in Phi Beta Kappa and being nominated for a Rhodes scholarship, the university would not change its position. Having failed to receive formal recognition, Alpha Nu slipped into inactivity at the close of the 1948-49 school year.⁵

It was not until the mid-1970s that plans were laid for the re-establishment of Alpha Phi Alpha at Drake University. Cornell Fowler '79, a Drake freshman, had been encouraged by his father, himself an initiate of Alpha Phi Alpha (Beta Theta, Bluefield State), to organize a chapter of the fraternity. In the fall of 1974 Fowler sought out Paul Best '78, head resident of Crawford Dormitory and a Drake graduate student, who had been initiated into Alpha Phi Alpha while attending North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (Beta Epsilon).

Best in turn contacted the fraternity's Des Moines alumni group, Zeta Kappa Lambda, which organized a smoker for all interested Drake men. As a result of this event 12 students became affiliated with the fraternity in February 1975; four men, who were upperclassmen, were initiated by Zeta Kappa Lambda;⁶ the remaining eight⁷ formed an interest group known as the Typical Alpha Men (TAMS). TAMS was organized due to the fact that Alpha Phi Alpha did not initiate underclassmen.

Alpha Phi Alpha was willing to install the

Drake group provided that it consisted of at least seven upperclassmen. This goal was achieved during the following school year, and on May 1, 1976, Alpha Nu was reinstalled.⁸ On October 28, 1976, Drake University officially recognized the fraternity.

During the 1980s, Alpha Nu has been highly visible on the Drake campus. The fraternity's Miss Black and Gold Pageant, an impressive beauty contest, has proven to be a popular event. Alpha Nu initiate Ken Palmer '81, was instrumental in the formation of the Drake Pan-Hellenic Council in 1981.

¹The six initiates from Iowa State College included Rufus B. Atwood, H. C. Aldridge, J. L. Lockett, L. A. Potts, Harold Tutt, and Fred D. Patterson. Patterson went on to establish the United Negro College Fund.

²Kappa Alpha Psi, which was established at Drake University in 1925, was also a community chapter, initiating students from Drake as well as Des Moines University.

³Minutes, Faculty Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, March 8, 1948. The assertion was refuted by Alpha Nu in an April 7, 1948, letter appearing in "The Drake Times-Delphic."

⁴Id. The committee based its denial of recognition upon the belief that "the gains and progress which negro students have achieved up to this time might be jeopardized if affirmative action were taken at this time." In other words, the committee was hesitant to force the IFC into accepting a black fraternity into its membership; a survey which had been conducted on February 9, 1948 had shown that only 19 percent of fraternity men approved of IFC recognition of Alpha Phi Alpha. There also appears to have been some concern over obtaining local ballroom

facilities if "mixed groups" were to attend such functions as an IFC formal dance. Ironically, the predominately black fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi met with little resistance upon its application for membership in the IFC several years later.

⁵Apparently, Alpha Phi Alpha had been completely inactive on the Iowa State College campus since 1933. It was not until 1982 that the fraternity returned to the institution, when Omicron Pi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha was installed.

⁶The initiates included William Davis, Thomas Spencer, Jr., Vincent Butler, and Douglas Corkin.

⁷Cornell Fowler, Kim Robert Massey, Lowell D. Jones, Dennis Jones, Larry Williams, Eric Perry, William Reynolds, and Cliff Williamson.

⁸The recharter members included Alonzo Anderson, Derek Batts, Arthur Lee, Cornell Fowler, Kim Massey, David Milliner, and Eric Perry.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Cornell Fowler and Michael J. Price, assistant executive secretary, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Alpha Tau Omega

Founded September 11, 1865, at Richmond, Virginia.¹ Total charter grants: 218, of which 155 remain active. Total Initiates: 136,210. Colors: sky blue and old gold; flower: the white tea rose.

Kappa Lambda founded February 21, 1912; installed as the 113th or Delta Omicron² chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity April 28, 1923.

ALPHA TAU OMEGA was among the first national fraternities to realize the potential for a burgeoning Greek system at Drake University. It accepted the petition of Kappa Lambda in 1923, two years after Phi Delta Theta declined affiliation with the Drake local fraternity. Alpha Tau Omega's insight proved correct, and its chartering of Kappa Lambda was well rewarded: the fraternity's Drake chapter has historically been among the most accomplished social organizations on campus.

The idea of forming Kappa Lambda grew out of a conversation conducted at the soda fountain of Henry's Drug Store³ in the spring

of 1911. Russell Jordan '14, George Peak '16, and Loftus Ward '13, met to discuss the need for a new social club at Drake University.⁴ The project was set aside until December, at which time Jordan and Ward began recruiting members for their organization; they were not joined by Peak who had apparently already begun forming the Pagoda Club (Phi Gamma Lambda). Earl Kirkpatrick '14, Dale Maffitt '14, Russell Nicholson '17, and Earl Rankin '14, became the first affiliates of the new organization, and Assistant Professor of Chemistry Theodore Ball volunteered to serve as faculty advisor. The name Kappa Lambda was adopted, although for purposes



The active membership of Kappa Lambda in 1922, one year before the fraternity was installed as a chapter of Alpha Tau Omega.

Amos Lee

of complying with the trustees' prohibition against Greek-letter societies the organization became known publicly as the Colonial Club.

Kappa Lambda began holding regular meetings in the Venerable Science (Sage) Hall.⁵ The pledging of Harry Burns '14, in early 1912 brought the total membership of the fraternity to seven. On February 21, 1912, Kappa Lambda petitioned the Board of Student Organizations for recognition as a social club.⁶ Recognition was extended, and Kappa Lambda joined the four other fraternities operating as "social clubs" on the Drake campus.

By the conclusion of the 1911-12 school year, Kappa Lambda's membership had grown to 14 men. In the summer of 1912, the fraternity signed a lease for a clubhouse at 1419 24th Street. Kappa Lambda enjoyed little more than rooming privileges at the address, and in January 1913 it moved to 1314 26th Street. There, the fraternity enjoyed a greater degree of freedom in conducting meetings and a limited social program. Operations were refined, and Russell Jordan's father William—an initiate of Alpha Tau Omega (Alpha Nu, Adrian)—assisted in the formulation of a ritual. In the summer of 1913, Kappa Lambda again relocated, taking up residence at 2303 Carpenter Avenue.

In the spring of 1915, Kappa Lambda gained a voting seat on the Men's Pan Hellenic Council. That fall, the fraternity moved to 1422 28th Street, and significantly increased its membership by pledging 13 men. World War I curtailed Kappa Lambda's activities, and by 1918 virtually all of the fraternity's undergraduate membership was involved in the war effort; in total, 89 men, or 80 percent of all Kappa Lambda initiates, found themselves in the service. The fraternity's residence was relinquished, and its furniture was rented to Kappa Kappa Upsilon Sorority for the duration of the conflict.

In December 1918 a sufficient number of Kappa Lambdas had returned to Drake University so as to allow a house located at 2920 Brattleboro Avenue to be acquired. By the conclusion of the 1918-19 school year, revitalization of the fraternity was nearly complete.

On February 18, 1920, after years of pressure from a number of constituencies, Drake University granted its local fraternities and sororities permission to petition national organizations. Almost immediately Drake's fraternities announced whom they were pursuing affiliation with; only Kappa Lambda remained silent, creating the impression that it was remaining a local order. In reality, the

fraternity was secretly soliciting the favor of Phi Delta Theta. There were two possible reasons surrounding the concealment of this fact: first, many Kappa Lambda alumni were partial to Alpha Tau Omega, and it is likely that they would have opposed the move; second, the fraternity's local competitor Tau Psi was preparing to petition Phi Delta Theta, and Kappa Lambda may have seen some advantages in the nondisclosure of its own intentions.

When Tau Psi's petition was considered at the Atlanta convention of Phi Delta Theta in 1920, delegates from the national fraternity's Des Moines Alumni Club were present to oppose the group and to voice sentiment in favor of Kappa Lambda.⁷ Tau Psi's petition was not acted upon favorably, and Kappa Lambda proceeded to learn how Phi Delta Theta would respond to the overtures of another Drake local fraternity. On May 2, 1921, Kappa Lambda's 31 members signed a petition to Phi Delta Theta which was ultimately never considered. Kappa Lambda had failed to realize that Phi Delta Theta was not opposed to Tau Psi but rather to the enrollment and endowment of the university at which it was located.

Dejected, Kappa Lambda re-examined the imperative of its founders to affiliate with Alpha Tau Omega. On March 19, 1922, a joint meeting of undergraduate and alumni members unanimously voted to petition the national fraternity, and a formal bound prospectus was prepared and submitted.

Alpha Tau Omega undertook a cautious and lengthy examination of Kappa Lambda. A Drake Investigation Committee was formed, and in May 1922 its chairman, W. E. Battenfield (Beta Eta, Ohio Wesleyan), joined Alpha Tau Omega's National Chaplain Paul Hickok (Beta Mu, Wooster) in an inspection of the campus. A favorable report was submitted, which was followed by endorsements from the national fraternity's Des Moines Alumni Association, regional officers, and area chapters. In the summer of 1922 Kappa Lambda acquired a larger home located at 1120 26th Street in the hope of making itself a more attractive candidate for affiliation with Alpha Tau Omega.

On January 25, 1923, Alpha Tau Omega polled its chapters on the desirability of Kappa Lambda. Only four of the 78 eligible chapters (including Delta Beta at the University of Iowa) voted against the petition. On February 24, 1923, Kappa Lambda was notified of its acceptance into Alpha Tau Omega.

The installation of Kappa Lambda as Iowa Delta Omicron chapter of Alpha Tau Omega

took place during the 1923 Drake Relays. Festivities began on Thursday, April 26 with a smoker for initiates of Alpha Tau Omega, which was held at the Kappa Lambda residence. On the morning of April 27, Thomas Arkle Clark (Gamma Zeta, Illinois), national president of Alpha Tau Omega and dean of men at the University of Illinois, officiated over the initiation of 28 Kappa Lambda undergraduates in the Ivory Room of the Hotel Fort Des Moines. That afternoon, 44 of the fraternity's alumni were also initiated into Alpha Tau Omega.⁸ In the evening, a dinner-dance was held at the Hotel Fort Des Moines with 175 couples in attendance. The banquet program featured Daniel Morehouse, president, Drake University; William C. Smiley (Gamma Nu, Minnesota), national officer and associate editor of *The ATΩ Palm*; and Thomas Arkle Clark. On the morning of April 28, Smiley presented the chapter with its charter.

The flower of Kappa Lambda was the carnation; its colors, maroon and white. An alumni journal, *The Appak*, was renamed *The Colonial* in 1920.

The success Kappa Lambda had enjoyed as a local fraternity continued following affiliation with Alpha Tau Omega. Sigma Alpha Epsilon, which for over two years had enjoyed the distinction of being Drake University's only national fraternity, began facing competition from Delta Omicron. By 1926 the influence of Delta Omicron became apparent when its secession from the Men's Pan Hellenic Council prompted the governing body to fold. As a result, the chapter played a major role in the formation of the more progressive Drake Interfraternity Council. Early in 1928 Delta Omicron further enhanced its prestige when it acquired the Lochroft Mansion, located at 1255 30th Street. The former home of renowned engineer and Drake University Trustee D. H. Buxton, Lochroft was one of the most impressive residences in Des Moines. Allegedly, Lochroft became the largest fraternity house in Iowa.

The aftershock of the stock market crash of 1929 was felt keenly by Delta Omicron. One after another, chapter members unable to meet the financial burdens of their education vacated Lochroft. A downward trend in membership was reversed on May 31, 1931, when Delta Omicron absorbed the Drake local fraternity Phi Gamma Lambda.⁹ In addition to gaining 25 initiates and in the process increasing the occupancy of Lochroft, Delta Omicron benefited from the acquisition of the local fraternity's furniture,

which included a newly purchased grand piano. However, the merger proved to be only a temporary expedient. By the spring of 1934, Delta Omicron found itself unable to make house payments, and Lochroft was abandoned. For the remainder of the school year, the chapter operated out of a barn near Kingman Boulevard; in the summer, a permanent residence located at 3650 Cottage Grove Avenue was purchased. Although considerably more modest than Lochroft, the dwelling was nonetheless equal to or better than those occupied by Delta Omicron's competition. Within a year at its new address, the chapter rebuilt its membership to nearly 70 men.



This large and functional residence served as Delta Omicron's chapter house from 1934-78.

In February 1935 Alpha Tau Omega—along with Delta Gamma—won the first Drake Sweetheart Sing, an event which grew to become an annual fraternity-sorority songfest. The chapter went on to outperform all social fraternities in the competition for seven consecutive years.¹⁰

During the late 1940s Drake University's fraternities enjoyed a period of prosperity, and Alpha Tau Omega was no exception. When World War II broke out Delta Omicron's large membership allowed it to maintain operations, albeit on a reduced scale, for several years. In April 1943 the chapter house was vacated and converted to barracks for use by the War Training Service Corps (WTSC). Chapter meetings were moved to Lowery's Uptown Cafe, located at 1208 42nd Street. When the WTSC concluded its use of the fraternity's residence in 1943, the Cottage Grove property was utilized as a women's dormitory by the university. In the fall of 1944, Delta Omicron resumed operations at its pre-war address.

Members of Delta Omicron known to have died while serving their country in the conflict include:

Ensign Bert P. Anderson '42¹¹
 Karl O. Holliday '41
 Captain Stanley Meadows '42
 Lieutenant Glenn Peterson '40
 Lieutenant Hobart Throckmorton '40
 Lieutenant John B. Wise '43

The chapter's recovery following the cessation of hostilities was rapid and impressive. By 1946, Delta Omicron had regained status as a leader of the fraternity field at Drake. For the next 25 years it would prove to be among the most outstanding social groups on campus.



The June 1, 1954 issue of The Tau Times boasted of Delta Omicron's 94 members and their sundry campus accomplishments.

The 1950s were a particularly rewarding decade for Delta Omicron. In the spring of 1950, the chapter's membership reached an all-time high of 104 men; not until 1968 did Delta Omicron's numbers fall below 70. The chapter's alumni newsletter observed that

Alpha Tau Omega is the largest fraternity on campus. We feel that this is a definite asset, since we can do everything a smaller fraternity can do, and numerous things which a smaller organization cannot do. You cannot go anywhere on campus without meeting several Taus.¹²

Perhaps even more impressive than the chapter's size was its scholastic achievement. For a ten-year period beginning in the fall of 1950, Delta Omicron never placed lower than third in the fraternity scholarship rank-

ings; in the fall of 1956 it retired the scholarship cup, after having won the coveted award for three successive semesters. Additionally, the chapter was an able intramural athletic competitor; beginning in 1950, it won the Voltmer Trophy for four consecutive years.

In October 1953 Delta Omicron held its first Derby Day. For over a decade, the event—consisting of unconventional sporting activities followed by a party at the chapter house—was a popular function among Drake Greeks.

Alpha Tau Omega's success continued, resulting in concern by the alumni of its major competitor, Sigma Alpha Epsilon. In 1957 the national offices of Sigma Alpha Epsilon organized an alumni commission to better channel its Drake chapter's resources. As a result, Sigma Alpha Epsilon was significantly strengthened and began making inroads on Delta Omicron's widespread accomplishment. Although Alpha Tau Omega continued its achievements and involvement, by 1960 it was no longer the kingly of the Drake fraternity system.

In the summer of 1959 Delta Omicron began planning the construction of an addition to its chapter house. Due to city zoning laws the fraternity's residence constituted a non-conforming use; no change of any magnitude could be made to the property without the permission of the city. The Des Moines Zoning Board of Adjustment initially denied Delta Omicron a building permit, but the decision was later reversed.¹³ Completed in December 1959, the addition increased the capacity of the chapter house from 18 to 30 men.

Early in the 1960s, Delta Omicron began "a pattern of repeated illegal social activity."¹⁴ Following the 1960 Homecoming Dance, the chapter held an unauthorized social event where alcohol was consumed. The Interfraternity Council responded to the infraction by placing Delta Omicron on social probation for one semester and general probation for one year. On October 20, 1961, prior to the expiration of the probation, the chapter, along with the women of Chi Omega, held an "unregistered, unchaperoned party at which liquor was served."¹⁵ As a result of the second transgression, Delta Omicron was placed on probation until January 1963. Additionally, fines for the two offenses totaled \$500.

In the fall of 1965 a 39-man pledge class again pushed Delta Omicron over the 100-member mark. That same semester the chapter dedicated its annual "Winter Beautifon" formal dance to its housemother, Irene Ket-

chum. "Mother K" served as Delta Omicron's housemother from 1946-51 and from 1962-67.

During the 1970s Delta Omicron began undergoing a slow degeneration from which it has yet to fully recover. In fall of 1971 chapter membership fell to a post-war low of 36 men. Subsequently, the chapter increased in size but found itself unable to regain its former prominence.¹⁶ A victim of the fraternity depression which struck many campuses during the period, Delta Omicron turned to its alumni for assistance. Repeated requests for contributions appear to have only exacerbated the situation, and alumni involvement significantly diminished.

In April 1973 Delta Omicron observed its golden anniversary. A reunion was held during the Drake Relays which was attended by over 150 members of Alpha Tau Omega, including National President John L. Putman (Beta Beta, Birmingham-Southern) and 14 charter members of the chapter.

By 1978 Delta Omicron's chapter house had become obsolete. Not only was the fraternity encountering difficulty in filling its

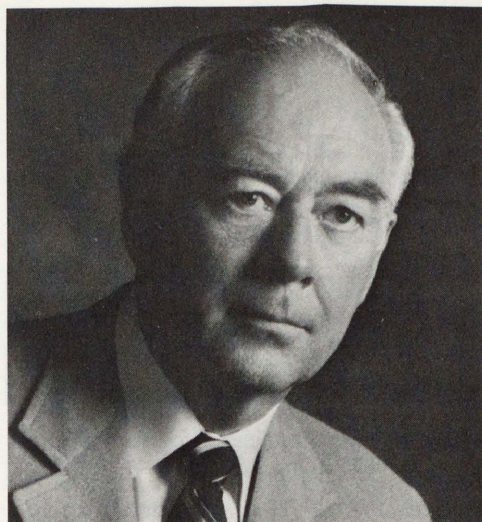
residence to capacity, but the physical structure required repeated and costly repairs. During the summer of 1978 the chapter moved to a rental property located at 1311 34th Street. The equity in the former chapter house was exchanged for an attractive lease, which set rent at approximately one-fifth of the fair market rental value of the new property for a period of four years.

Drake University and the national office of Alpha Tau Omega, cognizant of Delta Omicron's difficulty in making progress, undertook revitalization of the chapter in the spring of 1981. The Office of Greek Life individually interviewed the chapter's membership and assisted in the formulation of achievable goals for the organization. Since that time the chapter's membership has stabilized somewhat and a turnaround in Delta Omicron's situation may have taken place. In the fall of 1983 the fraternity significantly improved its housing situation by leasing a functional residence located at 1218 34th Street, which was made available by the demise of Gamma Phi Beta.

Among Delta Omicron's nearly 1300 initi-



Alpha Tau Omega has enjoyed a *large* and prestigious membership during most of its years at Drake University. Mike Newell



Drake University
Delta Omicron initiate Wilbur Miller has served as president of Drake University since 1972.

ates are a number of distinguished alumni. A few include Dr. Wilbur Miller '45, president,

Drake University; Jack Pester '57, chairman of the board of Pester Marketing and a university trustee; Dr. Lewis McNurlen '48, professor of sociology, Drake University; and the late Harold Cartwright '25, a Drake trustee and major benefactor of the law school which bears his name. John Stipp '36, served as national treasurer of Alpha Tau Omega from 1959 to 1968. Robert Throckmorton '36, and Ronald K. Lachner '63, were both recipients of the Thomas Arkle Clark Award, Alpha Tau Omega's recognition for the most outstanding undergraduate among all chapters.

The chapter has published an alumni newsletter under a number of names including *Tau Talks*, *Maltese Musings*, and *The Alumni/Chapter Newsletter*. *Tau Mates*, a liaison, was recognized by Drake University on May 28, 1964. In 1966 its name was changed to the Little Sisters of the Maltese Cross.

During its 60 years at Drake University, Alpha Tau Omega has initiated approximately 1266 men.¹⁷

¹The fraternity was founded by three Civil War veterans who had been classmates at the Virginia Military Institute. Subsequently, Alpha chapter was placed at VMI.

²For a number of years Alpha Tau Omega included in its nomenclature the state in which each chapter was located. The Drake chapter was installed as Iowa Delta Omicron.

³The business, located at 1201 25th Street, was a popular student gathering place during the early years of Drake.

⁴Much of the information on the origins of the fraternity was taken from "A History of Kappa Lambda," a meticulously detailed chronology written in 1922 by Russell Pansie, a charter member of Delta Omicron chapter.

⁵The building was razed in 1949.

⁶The date of the filing of the petition, not its acceptance, was adopted as the founding date of Kappa Lambda.

⁷Minutes, Kansas City convention of Phi Delta Theta, December 1922, p. 272.

⁸The 72 members of Kappa Lambda represented the largest group Alpha Tau Omega had initiated at one time. At least 17 additional Kappa Lambda alumni were subsequently initiated by Delta Omicron, one as late as 1950. In total, nearly two-thirds of Kappa Lambda's membership was brought into Alpha Tau Omega.

Undergraduates initiated on April 27, 1923 included Robert Peisen (president), Russell Pansie, Reuben Larson, Harold Cartwright, William Boelter, Everett George, Curtis Gregory, Charles Denton, Beryl Sherman, Forest Stewart, Judson Parker, George Mahoney, Joseph Head,

Foster Southwick, Paul Jones, Herbert Jones, Paul Mead, Floyd Springer, William Britton, Alfred Clark, Otto Clark, Joseph Enright, Ralph Harley, Melvin Kerby, Ray Livingston, John Matheson, DeCaverno Reynolds, and Ward Wilson.

Alumni initiated were Dr. Luther Sherman Ross, Edward Lytton, Earl Kirkpatrick, Dale Maffitt, Loftus Ward, Russell Nicholson, Harold Bruner, Ashel Barnette, William Horniday, John Tait, Chelsa Sherlock, Herbert Jordan, Lant Doran, Olle Clause, Wayne Weishaar, Burton Jones, Joseph Lorentzen, James Wade, William Middleton, Edward Neveln, Lynn Cunningham, Charles Sexton, Clifford Bloom, Amos Lee, Adrath Hicks, Harold Minkler, Pritchard Payseur, James Sellards, Jr., Irving Brown, Arnold Neilson, Paul Walters, Herbert Cline, David Evans, Paul Mishler, James Hazelwood, Everest Johnson, Joe Johnson, Harold McDaniel, Lawrence Feike, Leigh Stocking, David Martin, W. Arnold Refshauge, Ted Payseur, and Douglas Billings.

Dr. L. S. Ross arrived at Drake University in 1892 as professor of zoology, and taught on the campus for over 40 years. He became Kappa Lambda's faculty advisor in 1913. Ed Lytton became affiliated with Kappa Lambda in 1919, the same year in which he was named university business manager. Lytton, a highly popular individual who played a major role in Drake's development, directed the university's finances until his death in 1941.

Kirkpatrick, Maffitt, Ward, and Nicholson were founders of Kappa Lambda. Another founder, Russell Jordan, had been initiated into Alpha Tau Omega while a law student at the Univer-

sity of Chicago (Gamma Xi). Interestingly, Jordan went on to practice law with another Drake fraternity founder: Joseph Z. Marks (Alpha Epsilon Pi). Jordan's grandson, Thomas Schneider (Delta Rho, DePauw), joined Alpha Tau Omega's professional staff in 1982.

⁹For more background on the absorption, see *Phi Gamma Lambda*.

¹⁰Phi Mu Alpha—a professional music fraternity—was chosen over Delta Omicron as the winner of the 1936 sing. Widespread campus dissent resulted in the disqualification of such groups from subsequent competitions.

¹¹In 1983, Anderson's family created a \$25,000 endowed university scholarship in his memory.

¹²"The Tau Times," June 1, 1954.

¹³"The Des Moines Tribune," February 13, 1962.

¹⁴Paul Boland, dean of students, to Stuart Daniels, executive director, Alpha Tau Omega, November 16, 1961.

¹⁵Id.

¹⁶However, it would be remiss to overlook Delta Omicron's intramural football dynasty. From 1975 to 1980, the chapter won 51 consecutive games.

¹⁷This figure represents initiates through the spring of 1981; since that time the chapter has been delinquent in submitting initiation fees to the national fraternity.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Amos Lee '22, Lewis McNurlen, Roscoe Riemenschneider '35, Ward Wilson '25, and Bill Krahling, editor, *The ATΩ Palm*.

Gamma Sigma Kappa

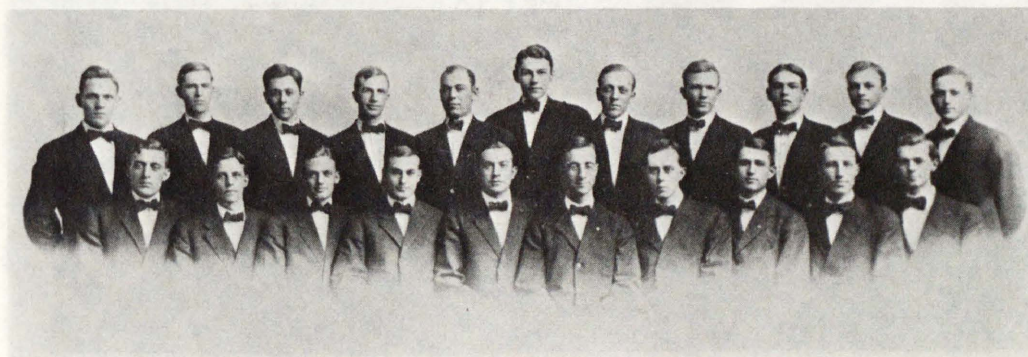
Founded October 11, 1906, at Drake University. Merged into Iowa Delta chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon May 26, 1928.

GAMMA SIGMA KAPPA, the first fraternity founded at Drake University, was organized on October 11, 1906 by Lynn T. Hall '07, George E. Brammer '08, David S. Kruidenier '09,¹ Fred W. Swanson '07, and Roy Nichol '07. Operating in direct violation of the board of trustees' prohibition against Greek-letter social societies, the public name G.S.K. Club was adopted to shield the fraternity's actual identity. In 1909, when the trustees came to the realization that such organizations could not be effectively banned, regulations over the operations of the "social clubs" were adopted; Gamma Sigma Kappa responded to the rule prohibiting "the unrelated letters of some alphabet"² being utilized as a club name by becoming the Golden Skull Klub. Not until 1914—when the university lifted its proscription against local fraternities—did the name Gamma Sigma Kappa become visible on campus.³ Even then, the actual meaning of Gamma Sigma Kappa—*Generosity, Stability, and Knightliness*—remained a well-guarded secret.

Although initially Gamma Sigma Kappa strived to conceal its Greek-letter character, no similar attempt was made on the part of

its membership to deny the actual existence of the organization. Shortly after its establishment, "G.S.K." became known as a political power on campus, with its initiates occupying leadership positions in student publications and varsity athletics. In 1908 the fraternity's members were sharing common quarters in a Drake-area boarding house; in 1910 Gamma Sigma Kappa leased a residence located at 2812 Brattleboro Avenue, which 12 men occupied. In the same year, the fraternity made the determination that a governing body for Drake's "social clubs" should be created in order to enhance their power and influence; by 1912, the Men's Inter-Club Council—composed of Gamma Sigma Kappa, Chi Delta, Sigma Beta Kappa, and Tau Psi—had become fully operational. By that point in time the strength and prestige of Gamma Sigma Kappa had become well-established, along with the knowledge that it was, in fact, a social fraternity; it was even rumored that it had "applied for a charter in one of the most powerful national fraternities in existence."⁴ Nevertheless, no attempt was made on the part of the university to disband the organization.⁵

By 1915 local fraternities had become an



Gamma Sigma Kappa in 1910, at which time it was the most popular and renowned fraternity at Drake University.

integral part of student life at Drake University, and Gamma Sigma Kappa was particularly distinguished by the achievements of its alumni and their contributions to the undergraduate organization. From 1909-13 the fraternity was advised by Dr. Alexander Begg '07, a member of Gamma Sigma Kappa's first pledge class and an instructor in the Drake College of Medicine; following the dissolution of the college, he went on to become the dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Medicine. Begg was succeeded by George E. Brammer, a founder of Gamma Sigma Kappa, renowned Des Moines attorney, and Drake Law School professor. Dr. Daniel Morehouse, Drake professor of astronomy and later university president, was initiated by the fraternity in 1915. A year later over 100 of Gamma Sigma Kappa's alumni—among them some of Iowa's most influential citizens—attended festivities in observance of the tenth anniversary of the fraternity's founding.⁶

In compliance with War Department directives and the dissolution of the Drake Men's Pan Hellenic, Gamma Sigma Kappa ceased operation during the latter part of World War I. The fraternity's residence, then located at 1222 26th Street, was abandoned. Ninety-three members of the fraternity—over three-fourths of Gamma Sigma Kappa's total initiates—served during the conflict, including Lieutenant Scott L. Lennen '17, who "made

the supreme sacrifice when the last German drive was stopped in June 1918."⁷

Following the signing of the Armistice, Gamma Sigma Kappa returned to the Drake campus and took up residence at its pre-war address. By the conclusion of the 1918-19 school year, the fraternity had built up its membership to 21 men. When the university acquiesced to the petitioning of national organizations in February 1920, Gamma Sigma Kappa directed its efforts toward becoming a chapter of Phi Kappa Psi. Affiliation efforts were coordinated with local alumni of the national organization, and a professionally prepared petition was completed by the conclusion of the spring semester. The petition was considered by Phi Kappa Psi at its Minneapolis convention in the summer of 1920, during a time in which the national fraternity's extension policies were exceedingly conservative. Eleven local fraternities, all located at reputable institutions, sought affiliation with Phi Kappa Psi that year; ten—including Gamma Sigma Kappa—were denied the opportunity. According to the minutes of the extension committee, the rejection of Gamma Sigma Kappa's petition was undertaken with

a full realization of the merit and worth of the petitioning body itself and the spirit of the Phi Psis backing it, but at the same time in consideration of the fact that Drake University is not the type of progressive and



The Gamma Sigma Kappa Special provided transportation to and from nearby Colfax for the fraternity's 1919 Flunk Day festivities.

Margaret Hawley Drake

foremost [of] schools in which Phi Psi extension is most desirable.⁸

When Gamma Sigma Kappa again petitioned Phi Kappa Psi at the fraternity's Springfield convention of 1922, the national organization's conservative extension policy had not changed. A negative recommendation of the extension committee regarding Gamma Sigma Kappa and nine other petitioning groups was unanimously adopted by the delegation.

In the fall of 1922 Gamma Sigma Kappa remained interested in the prospect of national affiliation, and the fraternity commenced a relationship with Sigma Nu. The membership of Beta Mu chapter at the University of Iowa was invited to Gamma Sigma Kappa's social functions, and Robert Bannister, a prominent Des Moines attorney and Sigma Nu initiate (Beta Mu), communicated with his fraternity on behalf of the Drake local organization. What would appear to have been an excellent opportunity for Sigma Nu to revive its defunct Beta Delta chapter at Drake⁹ never came to be. Little is known about the actual petitioning of Sigma Nu, aside from the fact it was ultimately unsuccessful. Most likely Gamma Sigma Kappa gave up its pursuit of the fraternity after failing to receive consideration at Sigma Nu's 1923 Birmingham national convention.

Having been unsuccessful in its attempts to achieve national affiliation, Gamma Sigma Kappa began to experience internal difficulties. In 1925 the fraternity relocated for the fifth time since the conclusion of World War I. Membership ceased to grow, and Gamma Sigma Kappa found it increasingly difficult to compete with other campus fraternities. A third drive for nationalization was undertaken in the spring of 1927 with efforts directed toward Pi Kappa Alpha; however, the prospect of affiliation was not treated as a priority by Gamma Sigma Kappa's membership, and proved to be unproductive.

In the spring of 1928 Gamma Sigma Kappa found itself without a future course. A merger with the Drake chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon was proposed. Such an arrangement was attractive to both organizations; a merger would finally provide Gamma Sigma Kappa with national affiliation, while Sigma Alpha Epsilon stood to gain several influential campus leaders, an enlarged membership, and a considerable contribution to its endowment through the initiation fees of the men taken in. Sigma Alpha Epsilon organized a merger committee comprised of chapter alumni, which prepared a merger

proposal for presentation to the national fraternity. Meanwhile, George Brammer, who had become a Drake trustee, contacted alumni of Gamma Sigma Kappa, promoting interest in the incorporation. An agreement was reached by the two fraternities, and on March 28, 1928, it was submitted to the governing council of Sigma Alpha Epsilon for approval. Relevant sections provided that

The existence of Gamma Kappa Sigma shall be completely and finally terminated . . . all active and fully initiated members of Gamma Sigma Kappa . . . shall be entitled to initiation into Sigma Alpha Epsilon under this merger upon payment of the sum of sixty dollars . . . and the execution of a promissory note for the sum of one hundred dollars . . . at least 50 and no more than 75 members of Gamma Sigma Kappa who shall have been found acceptable to the parties shall each pay the sum of one hundred sixty dollars . . . and present themselves for official initiation.¹⁰

Sigma Alpha Epsilon, confronted with the first proposed merger in its history between a local fraternity and one of its chapters, deliberated the arrangement. National officer George D. Kimball (Colorado Zeta, Denver), who had traveled to Des Moines and met with the membership of the Drake chapter (Iowa Delta) and with Gamma Sigma Kappa, wrote in support of the proposal, stating that

This merger would be of great advantage to Iowa Delta in that it would undoubtedly enable the chapter to place itself in a position where it would compete with the local society of ATO to much better advantage than can be done under present conditions and furthermore that it would add to our Des Moines alumni group a group of influential men whose membership in SAE would be a distinct advantage to us locally.¹¹

On April 21, 1928, Gamma Sigma Kappa and the Drake chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon were notified of the unanimous approval of the merger.

Forty-four undergraduate and alumni members of Gamma Sigma Kappa were initiated¹² into Iowa Delta of Sigma Alpha Epsilon on May 26, 1928. Following the ceremony, which was conducted at the Hotel Fort Des Moines, a banquet was held in recognition of the merger. A speech was delivered by William T. Brandon, governor of Alabama and past national president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. A week later *The Drake Times-Delphic*—which was edited by one of the new initiates—displayed a fitting epitaph for Gamma Sigma Kappa:

The passing of GSK is another indication of

the result of wars on a peacetime society. It also illustrates the present trend to larger business and social units. Before the war, GSK men at Drake were leaders in every line of campus activity. The group history was distinguished and its ambitions high. When war broke out, many of its men enlisted in the service. Some died. Many never got back after the war was over. The fraternity suffered a loss of manpower. Initiation of its members into Sigma Alpha Epsilon strengthens the national organization. Some undergraduate who wants a good subject for a thesis will find in the history of GSK and her sons material for a document worthy of

preserving in any record of the twentieth century life in Iowa.

Gamma Sigma Kappa's flower was the red rose. Beginning in the fall of 1910, the fraternity published an alumni journal entitled *The Golden Skull*. Gamma Sigma Kappa was renowned for its annual Colfax Party, which was first held on Flunk Day in 1907. In 1943 Gamma Sigma Kappa initiate Forrest W. Seymour '28, won a Pulitzer Prize while editor of *The Des Moines Register*. Charles Wennerstrum '14, served as a justice on the Iowa Supreme Court from 1941-58.

¹Kruidenier was initiated into Alpha Tau Omega at the University of Colorado (Gamma Lambda), where he attended classes in 1903-04 prior to transferring to Drake.

Sources conflict as to whether Harlan T. DeuPree '07, was a founder of Gamma Sigma Kappa or a member of its first pledge class.

²Minutes, Drake University Board of Trustees, February 9, 1909.

³However, it was general knowledge that "the initials G.S.K., strangely enough, correspond to the Greek letters Gamma Sigma Kappa." "The Des Moines Register and Leader," January 15, 1908.

⁴"The Des Moines Daily Capital," July 30, 1909. The rumor, by all other accounts, was inaccurate. However, the September 10, 1910, minutes of Gamma Sigma Kappa did urge that "immediate action be taken on the question of nationalization."

⁵The prohibition against "student secret societies" had existed since the inception of Drake University, and was claimed by some to be at the insistence of General Drake himself. In 1906 Drake President Hill M. Bell ordered a group of women which had organized themselves into a "secret society" known as Gamma Gamma Gamma to adopt a non-Greek letter name and to cease holding secret initiations. It is unclear why Gamma Sigma Kappa and other social societies were not similarly neutralized.

⁶In 1918 two of the fraternity's founders—Fred W. Swanson and David S. Kruidenier—became the first Drake Greek alumni to be elected to the university's board of trustees.

⁷"A Petition to the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity," Gamma Sigma Kappa, Drake University, p. 23, undated.

⁸Report of the Extension Committee, 31st Grand Arch Council of Phi Kappa Psi, July 2, 1920, p. 71.

⁹Sigma Nu operated a *sub rosa* chapter at Drake from 1891-93.

¹⁰Although the agreement was ratified, Gamma Sigma Kappa proved unable to provide the quantity of alumni initiates agreed upon.

¹¹"Report to the Supreme Council in regard to Iowa Delta Merger Proposal," April 4, 1928. The Drake chapter of Alpha Tau Omega was installed in 1923.

¹²Alumni initiates included Drake Law School Dean Leland S. Forrest, and Gamma Sigma Kappa Founders George Brammer and Fred Swanson. Not included for unknown reasons was Drake President Daniel Morehouse.

Gamma Sigma Kappa's pledges were not included in the merger. However, several were later initiated by Iowa Delta.

Only \$20 of the \$160 initiation fee was submitted to the national office. The remainder went toward the retirement of Gamma Sigma Kappa's debts, the costs incurred in the merger/initiation, and as noted, Iowa Delta's building fund.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Paul K. Ashby '33, Harold Clements '24, Wayne Daily '30, Robert Goode '23, Charles Wennerstrum, and the national office of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Kappa Alpha Psi

Founded January 5, 1911, at Indiana University. Colors: crimson and cream.

A group of students from Des Moines and Drake universities installed as the 24th or Omega chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity November 28, 1925.

KAPPA ALPHA PSI became the first on-campus organization to provide a fraternity experience for black students when eight men were initiated as the charter members of Omega chapter on November 28, 1925. Five of the eight—Donald Curley '29, Ernest Dimitry '28, Merle Eppse '28, William Oney '28, and J. Nelson Thompson '29—were Drake students, while the remaining three were attending Des Moines University.¹ Earl B. Dickerson (Beta, Illinois) national president of Kappa Alpha Psi, presided over the ceremony and was assisted by undergraduate members from the University of Iowa (Gamma) chapter. Three alumni, including prominent Des Moines attorney S. Joe Brown,² were also initiated, so as to create an advisory board for the undergraduate chapter. Earnest Dimitry was elected to serve as the fraternity's first president, and his chapter was for-

mally recognized by Drake University on December 16, 1925.

Although nearly every black male student at Drake was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi during its early years, the number of minority students attending the university was small, thus limiting the chapter's growth and activities. When the effects of the Depression resulted in an even lower minority enrollment, Kappa Alpha Psi appears to have entered into a state of dormancy; during the 1930s, the number of men that it initiated was minimal.

Following the conclusion of World War II, Kappa Alpha Psi enjoyed a rebirth on the Drake campus. Although it initially appeared that the chapter would prove unable to compete with Alpha Phi Alpha,³ another traditionally black fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha entered into a period of inactivity after fail-



Seven of the eight charter members of Omega chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, which became the first university-recognized fraternity for black students in late 1925.

ing to obtain membership on the Drake Interfraternity Council (IFC) in 1949. On February 6, 1950, Kappa Alpha Psi became a probationary member of the IFC. One year later the chapter was extended full membership.

In the spring of 1958 Kappa Alpha Psi participated in the Sweetheart Sing competition for the first time in its history. A semester later the fraternity achieved the highest academic average of any Drake fraternity and was presented with the IFC scholarship cup. This accomplishment was repeated during the spring semester of 1959. In the fall of 1959 Kappa Alpha Psi was the first recipient of the pledge class scholarship trophy. In 1961, Kappa Alpha Psi undertook participation in Greek Week activities.

In the spring of 1960 Omega chapter, with a membership of 18 men, embarked on a decade of widespread campus involvement. Particularly distinguishing themselves on every varsity athletic team, members of Kappa Alpha Psi were also heavily involved in stu-

dent government. In 1963 the chapter could claim a total membership of 24 men, which included several non-black initiates. Kappa Alpha Psi attempted to acquire a chapter house, but its efforts were thwarted by a fluctuating membership and the fact that many of its initiates, as varsity athletes, were required to live in university dormitories. In the spring of 1968 the chapter again received IFC scholarship honors.

The period of student activism beginning in the late 1960s had profound effect upon Drake's fraternities, and those with predominately black memberships were no exception. By 1969 Kappa Alpha Psi's membership had fallen to eight men. Two years later the fraternity voluntarily withdrew its membership in the IFC, although it did not completely disappear from campus. On January 15, 1975, Kappa Alpha Psi was readmitted to the IFC, subsequently withdrawing by 1979. In 1981, the fraternity was again readmitted to voting membership on the council; it remains a member to this date.

¹The three Des Moines University initiates were Laverne Ewing, Joseph Maupins, and James Williams. Des Moines University, which was located at Second Street and Euclid Avenue, was originally organized in 1865. On May 9, 1927, the Board of Trustees of Des Moines University agreed to merge into Drake University; however, for a number of peculiar reasons, the merger never took place. For more information, see Charles Ritchey, *Drake University Through 75 Years* (Des Moines: Drake University, 1956), pps. 193-96.

²The other alumni initiates were A. A. Alexander and Herbert Wright.

³According to a somewhat inaccurate April 29, 1954 memo from Dean of Men Robert Kamm to

Assistant to the President Melvin Hyde, "following World War II, the negro fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha received greater support [than Kappa Alpha Psi] and university approval was given to this group. In 1950, however, the pendulum swung the other way, and with greater alumni and student interest in Kappa Alpha Psi, and in view of our thinking that we could not accommodate two Negro fraternities on the Drake campus, recognition was given to Kappa Alpha Psi, and Alpha Phi Alpha was dropped as one of our campus organizations." In actuality, Alpha Phi Alpha was not officially recognized by Drake University until the fall of 1976.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Rebecca Major of the Kappa Alpha Psi national office staff.

Omega Psi Phi

Founded November 17, 1911, at Howard University. Colors: purple and gold.
Tau Eta chapter recognized by Drake University November 11, 1976.

OMEGA PSI PHI's origin at Drake University is not a particularly clear one; not even the national office of the fraternity is knowledgeable as to how the chapter came to be. However, it is likely that the fraternity's Des Moines graduate chapter, Mu Omicron, had been involved with Drake students for some period of time, thus sparking interest in an undergraduate organization.

The fraternity first sought recognition from Drake in March 1976. A semester later,

when approval of Omega Psi Phi was extended, the chapter was composed of 12 men. Tau Eta's first president was Gary L. Baring '76.

The chapter's membership—which has been primarily black—has been relatively small since 1979.

A liaison, the Pearl Club of Omega Psi Phi, was recognized by Drake University on March 8, 1977.

Phi Beta Delta

Founded April 4, 1912, at Columbia University. Total charter grants: 34, of which 16 were active at the time of the fraternity's 1941 merger into Pi Lambda Phi. Total initiates: 3,300. Colors: blue and gold; flower: the hyacinth.

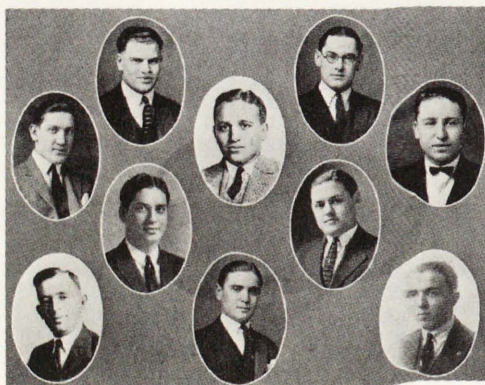
Sigma Delta Phi founded February 1922; installed at the 22nd or Psi chapter of Phi Beta Delta fraternity November 29, 1924. Became non-operating by 1930.

PHI BETA DELTA was organized in response to the wide-spread discrimination felt by men of the Jewish faith attending Drake University in the 1920s. After being denied membership in both national and local fraternities on campus, Jewish students were forced to create their own fraternal experience. In February 1922 the local fraternity Sigma Delta Phi was organized by a group of Drake students with a common religious belief and desire for social development. Sigma Delta Phi's founders included Nicholas Friedman '22, Louis Anshel '22, Sam Covitch '25, Marquis Press '24, and Goodman Robinson '29. As the five men were all Des Moines residents, no attempt was made to secure housing for the organization; instead, weekly meetings and social events were held in various buildings on campus. The fraternity soon began publication of a journal, *The Manuscript*; adopted purple, silver, and dawn grey as its colors; and selected the hyacinth as its official flower. Sigma Delta Phi's badge, like its name, bore a

significant resemblance to that of the Jewish national fraternity Phi Sigma Delta.¹

Sigma Delta Phi immediately became popular with the Jewish men on campus, whose number represented a very small percentage of the Drake student body. As a result, the size of Sigma Delta Phi never exceeded 10-15 members. Nevertheless, Phi Beta Delta, predominately Jewish national fraternity which in fact had no restrictions on membership, began making overtures to the Drake local fraternity. Although the founders of Sigma Delta Phi had not contemplated affiliation with a national organization, several became involved in negotiations with Phi Beta Delta. Sigma Delta Phi and Phi Beta Delta concluded that affiliation would be mutually beneficial, and on November 29, 1924, Sigma Delta Phi was installed as Psi chapter of Phi Beta Delta. At ceremonies held at the Hotel Fort Des Moines, Phi Beta Delta's National Secretary Will N. Schleicher and members of the University of Iowa chapter (Phi) initiated 19 men into the fraternity. A banquet following the installation featured speeches by Schleicher, Drake University President Daniel Morehouse, Professor Francis Herriott, and Rabbi Solomon Rivlin. Messages were read from Iowa Governor N. E. Kendall, the national officers of Phi Beta Delta, and each of the fraternity's chapters. The evening was concluded with a formal dance.

Little is known about the activities of Phi Beta Delta at Drake University. The fraternity participated in scholastic and intramural competition, but did not become a member of the Men's Pan Hellenic. It is likely that any attempt to have done so would have been resisted due to the fraternity's religious composition and relative lack of prestige.



The membership of Sigma Delta Phi in the spring of 1922, shortly after its establishment as Drake University's first Jewish fraternity.

Following the climax of installation and the graduation of the fraternity's organizers, Phi Beta Delta began exhibiting a lack of growth. A chapter house could not be secured, and the recruitment of new members appears to have been abandoned. Psi chapter underwent a slow degeneration and any trace of the fraternity on the Drake campus was non-existent by the fall of 1930.

Phi Beta Delta made an attempt to revive its Psi chapter in 1936 when it invited the Drake Men's Club to affiliate with the national organization. However, the Drake Men's Club was unimpressed with Phi Beta Delta's overtures, and instead petitioned and became a chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi. Some members of the Drake Men's Club held the

opinion that Phi Beta Delta's inattention to Psi chapter was a major contribution to its demise, and that the national fraternity should not be given a second chance at Drake University.

Any possibility of returning Psi chapter to the active chapter roll of Phi Beta Delta was eliminated on February 1, 1941, when the national fraternity merged into Pi Lambda Phi.³ Under the terms of the agreement, only active chapters were taken in by Pi Lambda Phi, although all Phi Beta Delta initiates became alumni of the amalgamated organization.

Phi Beta Delta initiated 35 men during its six years at Drake University.

¹Phi Sigma Delta was founded at Columbia University in 1901; in 1969 the fraternity was absorbed by Zeta Beta Tau.

²Robert Lappen, Joseph Lipshire, Benjamin Sherman, William Grund, Stanley Robinson, Jack Elimkowsky, Sam Couch, Louis Ansher, Simon Neiman (president), Abe Marcovis, David Miller, Ralph Marcus, Charles Shane, Louis Corn, Jack

Zauatasky, Perry Silverman, Nicholas Friedman, Norman Chapman, and Hyman Grund.

³Pi Lambda Phi was founded at Yale University in 1895. The ideologies and purposes of the merged fraternities were similar.

Research assistance for this selection was provided by Nicholas Friedman.

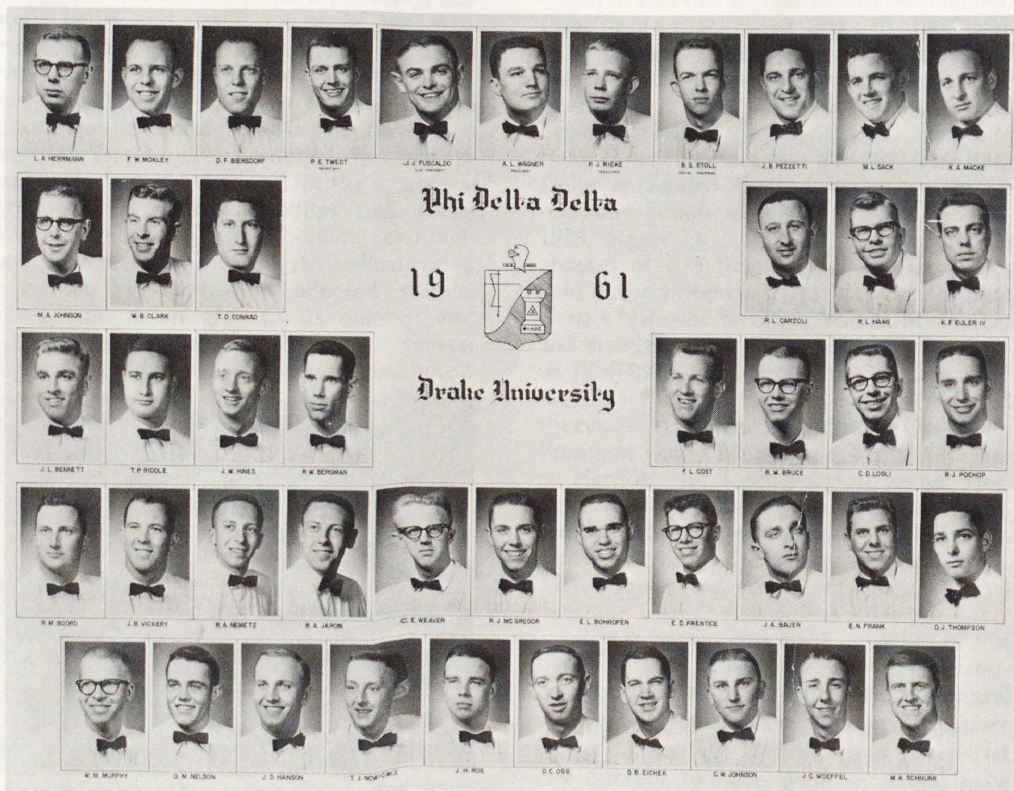
Phi Delta Theta

Founded December 26, 1848, at Miami University. Total charter grants: 189, of which 155 remain active. Total initiates: 158,155. Colors: argent and azure; flower: the white carnation.

Phi Delta Delta founded February 1957; chartered as the 149th or Iowa Delta chapter of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity August 5, 1961; installed October 28, 1961.

PHI DELTA THETA, for over a century one of the most prestigious national social fraternities, received numerous invitations to establish a chapter at Drake University prior to its acceptance in 1961. The local fraternity Tau Psi submitted six petitions to Phi Delta Theta between 1920 and 1924, all of which were ultimately rejected on the basis of

Drake's unpromising enrollment and endowment; Kappa Lambda's 1921 petition to the national organization was likewise disposed of.¹ Between 1928 and 1933 Emery Ruby, an initiate of Phi Delta Theta (Iowa Beta, Iowa) and director of the Drake Department of Journalism, repeatedly contacted his fraternity on behalf of the Drake local Chi Delta.



D. J. Thompson

Phi Delta Delta developed its own ritual, membership badge and, as displayed on this 1961 composite, its own coat-of-arms.

Phi Delta Theta responded that it was concerned with greater geographic extension of the fraternity, and with three operating chapters in the State of Iowa, consideration of Drake was not feasible.² The need for additional national fraternities on campus became particularly apparent following the conclusion of World War II, but Phi Delta Theta, in response to a university invitation to colonize, declined, stating that

As a matter of fact, we are not particularly interested in further expansion since we are concerning ourselves at present with the administration of chapters already on our roll.³

However, by the late 1950s Drake University had developed into a much more promising location for fraternity growth, and the quest for a Phi Delta Theta chapter was renewed. On January 7, 1957, four transfer initiates of Phi Delta Theta met in Room 202 of Morehouse Dormitory to discuss the formation of a Drake chapter of their fraternity. Robert Kerns '58 (Colorado Beta, Colorado College), Bruce Pashley '58 (Illinois Alpha, Northwestern), Richard Scribner '58 (Minnesota Alpha, Minnesota), and Grover Windsor '58 (Rhode Island Alpha, Brown), proceeded to form Phi Delta Delta, a local fraternity so named that if accepted by Phi Delta Theta it would become the Iowa Delta chapter of the national organization.

Phi Delta Delta faced considerable challenge in gaining recognition from Phi Delta Theta and the Drake Interfraternity Council (IFC). The group sought the guidance of Scott Crowley, a Des Moines policeman and initiate of Phi Delta Theta (Iowa Gamma, Iowa State), and Lothar Vasholz (Colorado Alpha, Colorado), a regional official and former field secretary for the national fraternity. Crowley and Vasholz, who would prove to be most responsible for Phi Delta Delta's growth and development, were able to secure the support of the 150-member Des Moines Alumni Association. Crowley and Founder Pashley next assembled a presentation on Phi Delta Delta which was shown to the IFC. On March 22, 1957, the IFC recognized Phi Delta Delta as a local social fraternity, entitling it to a non-voting seat on the council.

By the conclusion of the spring 1957 semester, Phi Delta Delta had gained much headway and had grown to 24 members. Unfortunately, the group's desire to achieve national affiliation was not matched by its academic success; its cumulative grade-point average for spring 1957 was below a 2.0, and three years would pass before Phi Delta

Delta would rise above the bottom-fourth of the fraternity scholarship rankings. Other events transpired which would retard Phi Delta Theta's chartering of the local fraternity: membership dropped to 18 men in the fall of 1958; suitable housing could not be located; and in April 1958 Phi Delta Delta's request for full membership in the IFC was denied. At the conclusion of the spring semester of 1958, Phi Delta Delta's four founders graduated, leaving behind a young and inexperienced group of men to lead the fraternity.

In September 1958 Phi Delta Delta acquired a residence located at 2905 Carpenter Avenue "and moved in just an hour before fraternity rush began."⁴ Only the living room of the residence was furnished, and the fraternity undertook the task of outfitting the house on a piecemeal basis. Following disappointing recruitment results, dissension developed within Phi Delta Delta as to whether it could reasonably achieve Phi Delta Theta's requirements for affiliation. On September 30, 1958, the fraternity contacted the national office of Sigma Chi, inquiring into its recognition procedures. Sigma Chi responded that Drake University was not on its "preferred list" for expansion,⁵ and the investigation into an alternative national fraternity was dropped by Phi Delta Delta.

Not until December 1958 could Phi Delta Delta celebrate progress, at which time it was extended full voting rights in the Interfraternity Council.⁶ During the summer of 1959, improved housing was acquired when the fraternity relocated to 1311 34th Street. Following the 1959 fall rush, Phi Delta Delta's membership stood at 31 men; yet just as the fraternity appeared close to its goal of national affiliation, another stumbling block appeared. The December 11, 1959, issue of *The Drake Times-Delphic* bore the headline "Greek Scholarship Rosters Rigged?" and included a news story in which Phi Delta Delta admitted paying the membership dues of Drake students solely for use of their superior grades in calculating the chapter's scholarship. In order to achieve affiliation with Phi Delta Theta, Phi Delta Delta faced the requirement of achieving a grade-point exceeding the all-men's average; the fraternity's president (who was concurrently serving as president of the IFC) confessed that "either we had to start [padding the roster] or we will be at the bottom of the scholarship statistics all of the time." The article was followed by an IFC investigation, which in time concluded that "all present pledges of Phi

Delta Delta are now bonafide, participating members, including those on whom there has been a previous question."⁷ Unfortunately, the damage to Phi Delta Delta's reputation had already been done.⁸

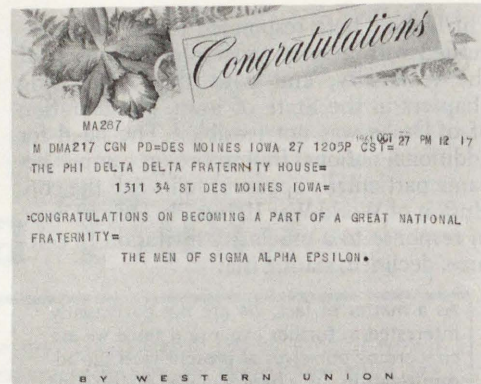
By 1960 Phi Delta Theta had become well aware of the efforts of Phi Delta Delta, yet it chose to remain noncommittal until it received the express invitation of the university to install the group.⁹ In December 1960 Dean of Students Paul Boland, in conjunction with the IFC, drafted "requirements to be met by Phi Delta Delta before either the university or IFC would approve affiliation with Phi Delta Theta."¹⁰ Dealing mainly with financial stabilization and alumni supervision, Phi Delta Delta easily accomplished the requirements. On April 20, 1961, the IFC unanimously granted the fraternity permission to affiliate with Phi Delta Theta; on the next day Dean Boland welcomed Phi Delta Theta to install a chapter at Drake University. Shortly thereafter, Phi Delta Delta formally petitioned the national fraternity.

Although it appeared that the only obstacle standing between Phi Delta Delta and national affiliation was a favorable vote on the part of various constituencies within Phi Delta Theta,¹¹ an event which transpired on April 21, 1961 cast doubt on the prospect of installation. The fraternity's pledge class had organized a barn party at which liquor was served, plastic cow chips were presented as favors, and certain "displays of affection . . . below the acceptable standards of behavior of a fraternity"¹² took place. As a result, Phi Delta Delta was placed on social probation and instructed that "any subsequent violation of social rules will result in a more serious action."¹³ The fraternity was also directed to undertake "more extensive training in social graces and conduct."¹⁴

On August 5, 1961, Phi Delta Delta, having received the approval of the general chapters of Phi Delta Theta, was chartered by the national fraternity. However, no formal plans were made for the chapter's installation as it remained on probation. The university took the position that

In some ways it does not make good educational sense to reward Phi Delta Delta with national affiliation just after the local chapter has been placed on social probation for an incident which occurred when most chapters would have been on their best behavior.¹⁵

Yet at the same time the administration agreed with Phi Delta Theta that a fall installation would be of significant assistance to



Throughout the Drake Greek community, the installation of Iowa Delta came as a welcomed event.

Phi Delta Delta in building up its membership, and thus the University gave the national office permission to officially proceed with its induction of the group.

The installation of Phi Delta Delta as Iowa Delta chapter of Phi Delta Theta occurred during the 1961 Homecoming Weekend. Ceremonies began on Friday, October 27 when 30 undergraduates and 15 alumni were initiated into Phi Delta Theta¹⁶ at the Waveland Park Masonic Temple. Officiating over the rites were Emmett J. Junge (Nebraska Alpha, Nebraska), past national president; Jack E. Shepman (Ohio Theta, Cincinnati), member-at-large of the national council; Robert J. Miller (New Mexico Alpha, New Mexico), executive director of Phi Delta Theta; and Frank E. Fawcett (Kansas Beta, Washburn), assistant executive director. Bruce E. Pashley, one of the four founders of Phi Delta Delta, and Lothar Vasholz, assisted. On the morning of October 28, Shepman presented Phi Delta Delta with its charter before 750 friends, relatives, university faculty members, and Drake Greeks who had gathered at the Plymouth Congregational Church. The event was followed by a buffet luncheon served at the chapter house. Installation was completed with a banquet at the Cloud Room of the Des Moines Municipal Airport that evening. Drake President Dr. Henry G. Harmon represented the university at the affair, which was also attended by a number of Phi Delta Theta dignitaries, and undergraduate members of chapters located at Iowa, Iowa State, Iowa Wesleyan (Iowa Alpha), and Nebraska (Nebraska Alpha). A pledging ceremony was conducted for those men who had joined Phi Delta Delta in the fall, and a Phi Delta Theta badge, which had belonged to a charter member of the Univer-



Iowa Delta and the women of the Athenian Court, 1980.

sity of Iowa chapter in 1882, was presented to Iowa Delta to be used by its president and his successors in office. The evening was concluded with a formal dance.

For Iowa Delta, the two decades following its installation have been marked by a stability shared by few of Drake's fraternities. The chapter has supplied the university with some of its most outstanding undergraduate leaders and has been a consistent competitor in all areas of endeavor. Of note is Iowa Delta's success in the annual Sweetheart Sing competition; between 1969 and 1980, the fraternity received first place honors on seven occasions. In the fall of 1973 Iowa Delta became the largest fraternity in the campus' history with 112 members;¹⁷ since 1970, the chapter has frequently been among

the larger fraternities at Drake. In the summer of 1979 Iowa Delta received Phi Delta Theta's Founder's Trophy, representing the most outstanding chapter of the fraternity located on a small campus.

Iowa Delta's present chapter house is located at 1245 34th Street and was purchased at a cost of \$40,000 in the fall of 1965.¹⁸

A liaison, the Athenian Court, was organized on December 10, 1967. During the 1960s, Iowa Delta published an alumni newsletter entitled *The Bulldog Phi*. For the past several years, the chapter has distributed *The Phi Delta Theta Newsletter*.

Iowa Delta chapter of Phi Delta Theta has initiated 525 men during its 22 years at Drake University.

¹Kappa Lambda succeeded in obtaining affiliation with Alpha Tau Omega in 1923, while Tau Psi was dissolved by the university in 1931.

²Arthur Priest, executive director, Phi Delta Theta, to Emery Ruby, July 22, 1931. Chapters of Phi Delta Theta were in operation at Iowa Wesleyan, the University of Iowa, and Iowa State College.

³George Banta, Jr., chairman, Survey Commis-

sion of Phi Delta Theta, to N. A. Johnson, dean of men, Drake University, March 18, 1947.

⁴"The Drake Times-Delphic," September 16, 1958.

⁵William L. Denton, assistant executive secretary, Sigma Chi, to Neil Seeber, president, Phi Delta Delta, October 8, 1958.

⁶Curiously, the Drake Panhellenic Council also

voted on according Phi Delta Delta full membership rights in IFC.

⁷IFC Judicial Committee report, January 10, 1960.

⁸Whatever damage in fact occurred may have served as an incentive to Phi Delta Delta. The following semester—spring 1960—it placed fourth in the fraternity scholarship rankings. In the spring of 1961, Phi Delta Delta's scholarship surpassed that of all other Drake fraternities.

⁹Robert Miller, executive director, Phi Delta Theta, to Paul Bloland, dean of students, Drake University, July 27, 1959.

¹⁰Paul Bloland, memo to the files, January 4, 1961.

¹¹The complete petitioning procedure of the fraternity included a review by the national survey committee; unanimous approval by all regional chapters; unanimous approval by the national board of directors; approval by regional officers and alumni clubs; and a three-fourths favorable vote of the remaining regional officers, past national officers, and chapters. By April 15, 1961, Phi Delta Delta has passed all voting procedures except for the approval of the survey committee and the undergraduate chapters.

¹²Dennis A. McKinley, chairman, IFC Judicial Committee, to Phi Delta Delta, May 10, 1961.

¹³Paul Bloland, to James J. Fuscaldo, president, Phi Delta Delta, May 15, 1961. Bloland also stated that "by any standards, the favors were inexcusable."

¹⁴Dennis A. McKinley, to Phi Delta Delta, May 10, 1961.

¹⁵Paul Bloland, to Robert J. Miller, August 31, 1961.

¹⁶Undergraduate initiates included Peter Rieke (president), Alvin Wagner, Terence Conrad, Eldon Bohrofen, Edward Frank, Jerry Hines, Terry Riddle, William Clark, Bruce Stoll, Richard Bruce, Larry Miller, Donald Biersdorf, Rich-

ard Bergman, David Thompson, Curtis Johnson, Thomas Nowicki, David Ogg, Eugene Prentice, John Roe, William Schnurr, Charles Weaver, John Woelfel, John Bauer, Karl Euler, Gerry Getter, Robert Nometz, Robert Boord, Frank Cost, Donald Eicher, and Richard Jarom.

As noted in the body, the Drake local fraternity Tau Psi had unsuccessfully attempted to become a chapter of Phi Delta Theta during the 1920s. According to the Iowa Delta installation article which appeared in the May 1962 "The Scroll of Phi Delta Theta," "Phi Delta Theta initiated selected members of this group as alumni members and thus enabled some to realize an ambition and desire that existed for several decades." This "select group" included Roy Flynn (a Tau Psi founder), Ray Dalby, John Heneberry, James Shearer, C. Ream Daugherty, Allen Lynch, and Norman Moon. Other alumni initiates were Donald Cook, Marvin Hildreth, Ralph Eidem, Gene McGuire, Kenneth Neu, Ronald Hallock, William Cownie, and David Adamson.

¹⁷In the fall of 1970, a 47-man pledge class boosted Iowa Delta's membership to 88. Shortly thereafter, the chapter considered a bylaw limiting the chapter's membership to 75 men.

¹⁸In 1963 Iowa Delta gave serious consideration to purchasing a residence located at 1219 34th Street. Four years later, it was instead purchased by Alpha Epsilon Pi, who built a large addition to the rear of the building. During the summer of 1981, shortly before Alpha Epsilon Pi left campus, the two fraternities discussed exchanging houses. Although Alpha Epsilon Pi had encountered difficulty in filling its house and Iowa Delta was in desperate need of additional living space, nothing became of the negotiations.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Alvin Wagner '61, Scott Crowley, and Robert A. Biggs, director of chapter services, Phi Delta Theta Fraternity.

Phi Gamma Lambda

Founded October 28, 1912, at Drake University. Merged into Delta Omicron chapter of Alpha Tau Omega May 30, 1931.



The membership of the Drake local fraternity Phi Gamma Lambda, 1914.

PHI GAMMA LAMBDA's beginning and end are inextricably intertwined with the history of another Drake local fraternity, Kappa Lambda. In the spring of 1911 Russell Jordan '14, George Peak '16, and Loftus Ward '13, discussed the need for a new social club over soda at Henry's Drug Store, a popular student gathering place which was located at 1201 25th Street. While Jordan and Ward decided to wait before organizing what would ultimately become Kappa Lambda, Peak felt a greater necessity and proceeded to establish Phi Gamma Lambda. It was thus appropriate that when pressures brought on by the Depression made Phi Gamma Lambda's future questionable, the fraternity merged into Kappa Lambda, which had become a chapter of Alpha Tau Omega.

George Peak and the men he attracted to his organization—Oliver Scott '16, Lawrence Lane '17,¹ Lynn Robinson '16, Bertram Holst '13, and Carl Denslow '13—waited for over a year before seeking university recognition as a social club. On October 28, 1912, the Board

of Student Organizations recognized the Pagoda Club, a subterfuge Phi Gamma Lambda devised to circumvent the prohibition against fraternities. Dr. Herbert Martin, professor of philosophy, was selected as faculty advisor; he would remain in the position until joining the faculty of the University of Iowa in 1927.

Phi Gamma Lambda acquired a clubhouse at 2423 Drake Park Avenue, where it spent the next several years developing as a social organization. Royal purple and gold were selected by the fraternity as its colors; the violet, as its flower. In 1914 Phi Gamma Lambda relocated to 1091 26th Street; a year later it moved to 1152 21st Street.

In the spring of 1915 Phi Gamma Lambda and Kappa Lambda, Drake's two newest fraternities, were extended membership on the Men's Pan Hellenic Council. Phi Gamma Lambda's membership on the governing council was terminated in 1918 when it refused to join all other fraternities in suspending activities for the duration of World War I. The fraternity soon learned that a higher order, the United States War Department, offered it no choice but to terminate meetings, initiations, and the maintenance of a residence. Shortly thereafter, Phi Gamma Lambda followed the example of Drake's other fraternities.

Like all of Drake's fraternities, Phi Gamma Lambda was anxious to achieve national affiliation following the granting of permission to petition such organizations by the university in February 1920. There is circumstantial evidence that the founders of the fraternity were partial to Phi Gamma Delta,² but by 1920 Phi Gamma Lambda was steadfast in its desire to become a chapter of Kappa Sigma. Strong ties had grown between the Drake local and the Kappa Sigma chapter at William Jewell College (Alpha Omega) located in Liberty, Missouri; the membership of

both organizations had become acquainted through varsity debate. Phi Gamma Lambda also established ties with Kappa Sigma chapters located at Iowa (Beta Rho) and Iowa State (Gamma Lambda). But the national fraternity, then possessing the second largest number of chapters in the National Interfraternity Conference,³ was disinterested in the Drake campus.³ Petitions submitted to Kappa Sigma by Phi Gamma Lambda in 1920 and 1922 were ultimately denied.

In the fall of 1924 Phi Gamma Lambda rented a residence at 2840 University Avenue. The fraternity proceeded to construct a two-story addition to the rear of the building which housed a dining room and sleeping dorm. In 1928 the fraternity lost its lease and moved to a residence it had formerly occupied at 1122 26th Street, but in a year returned to purchase the University Avenue property.

A renewed interest in national affiliation arose within Phi Gamma Lambda in the late 1920s. The fraternity contacted Phi Gamma Delta, but a negative vote of the national fraternity's area chapters in 1927 foreclosed the possibility of extension at Drake.⁴ Allegedly Pi Kappa Alpha was then contacted, although there is no record of any such communication.

By 1930 Phi Gamma Lambda began suffering severe financial difficulties due to the Depression. An overwhelming accounts receivable accumulated, house payments were missed, and no alumni association existed to assist the undergraduates. In the spring of 1931 a conversation took place between Merrill Schuetz '31, president of Phi Gamma Lambda, and Billy Goodwin '32, president of Alpha Tau Omega, concerning the merger of the two fraternities. Alpha Tau Omega stood to gain a great deal from the proposition; similar financial problems had prevented it from filling and furnishing its chapter house, the immense Lochcroft Mansion, and Phi Gamma Lambda's membership of nearly 30 men, along with a house full of furniture, provided a solution. The two organizations eventually agreed upon the merger—or more accurately, the absorption of Phi Gamma Lambda—which was publicly announced on May 24, 1931.⁵ On May 30, 25 undergraduate members of Phi Gamma Lambda were initiated into Alpha Tau Omega. Local alumni of Phi Gamma Lambda were invited to be initiated as well, but none accepted.

The fraternity's alumni journal, *The Phi Gambols*,⁶ was published sporadically from 1916 until the early 1920s.

¹Lane married Ruth Bell '17, daughter of Drake President Hill M. Bell. The Lanes later acquired Sunset Publications.

²In the 1915 edition of *The Quax* a mock-up of Phi Gamma Lambda's coat of arms bore the words "PHI GAMMA DELTA," and hinted at affiliation with the national fraternity.

³Details on Phi Gamma Lambda's communications with Kappa Sigma are unavailable as the national fraternity has not maintained records relating to unsuccessful petitioning groups.

⁴Cecil V. Wilkinson, executive secretary, Phi Gamma Delta, to Richard Cole, Chi Delta, Drake University, June 11, 1928.

⁵Alpha Tau Omega failed to take the care and financial interest that Sigma Alpha Epsilon exhibited when it absorbed the Drake local fraternity Gamma Sigma Kappa in 1928. Sigma Alpha Epsilon made a special effort to attract

alumni of Gamma Sigma Kappa, and assessed each initiate \$160, a sum many times greater than the national initiation fee. Additionally, Sigma Alpha Epsilon requested the approval from its national fraternity for the merger. Not only did the Drake chapter of Alpha Tau Omega fail to request permission for the merger from its fraternity, but no communication regarding the arrangement was forwarded to the national office. To this day, the archives of Alpha Tau Omega lack any information on Phi Gamma Lambda, aside from the names of the 25 initiates.

⁶*Gambols* is a now-antiquated word meaning to frolic or skip.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Merrill Schuetz, Herb Vetter '30, Charles Wittenmyer '28, and Roscoe Reimenschneider '35.

Phi Sigma Omega

Recognized by Drake University February 26, 1963. The organization ceased to operate by 1966.

PHI SIGMA OMEGA was a local fraternity which operated briefly on the Drake campus. Early in the spring of 1961 several pledges of Alpha Epsilon Pi became disillusioned over the chapter's shortcomings and left the group. The students contacted five Jewish national fraternities¹ soliciting assistance in organizing a new fraternity. Phi Epsilon Pi and Phi Sigma Delta both responded immediately. The latter was chosen for support, and the Phi Sigma Club was organized.

On February 26, 1963, the Phi Sigma Club—which had changed its name to Phi Sigma Omega—petitioned the Student Per-

sonnel Committee of the Drake University Senate for recognition. Although there were only nine members in the organization at the time, the committee was impressed with the group. Phi Sigma Omega was unanimously approved as an independent social fraternity.

Initially, Drake University informally encouraged Phi Sigma Omega's development. However, when significant improvement took place within Alpha Epsilon Pi, the university lost its enthusiasm for a second Jewish fraternity. The loss of support culminated in the disbanding of Phi Sigma Omega by its members sometime in the mid-1960s.²

¹Paul Bloland, dean of students, memo to the files, February 10, 1961.

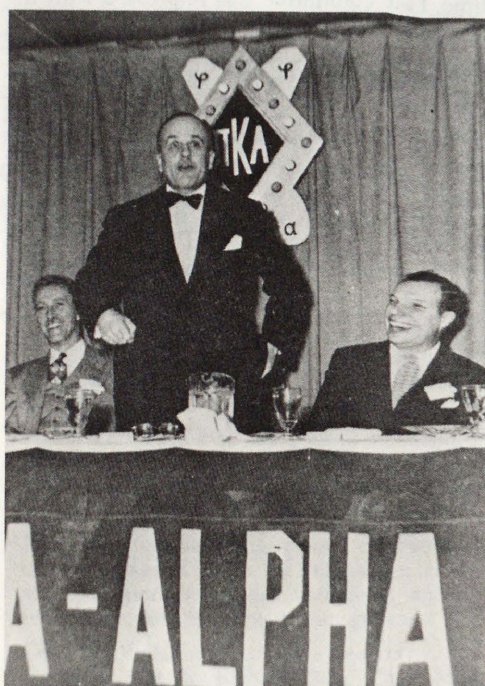
²Phi Sigma Delta itself ceased to exist when it merged into Zeta Beta Tau in 1969.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Gordon Burstein '66.

Pi Kappa Alpha

Founded March 1, 1868, at the University of Virginia. Total charter grants: 213, of which 175 remain active. Total initiates: 130,000. Colors: garnet and old gold; flower: the lily of the valley.

The Drake University Club founded January 1949; recognized as Delta Xi colony May 16, 1949; installed as the 111th or Delta Omicron chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity February 25, 1950.



Drake University President Henry Harmon, himself an initiate of Pi Kappa Alpha, displaying his sense of humor at Delta Omicron's installation banquet.

PI KAPPA ALPHA was the last of a post-World War II influx of fraternities onto the Drake campus. In the 20 months preceding its installation, three social fraternities had been chartered at Drake University; Pi Kappa Alpha soon learned that its presence added little more than marginal utility to a Greek system which had already achieved equilibrium. It took more than a decade for the organization to enter into its own as a fratern-

nity; since that time Delta Omicron chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha has made a recognizable contribution to student life at Drake University.

The first known contact Pi Kappa Alpha had with Drake University was originated by the local fraternity Gamma Sigma Kappa. In the fall of 1927, Gamma Sigma Kappa—the first local fraternity founded at Drake University—determined that “nationalization be centered on Pi K. A.”¹ Previously turned down by Phi Kappa Psi and Sigma Nu, Gamma Sigma Kappa was anxious to achieve national affiliation. The Drake local fraternity entertained members of Pi Kappa Alpha from Iowa State (Alpha Phi) and may have made formal overtures to the national office, but ultimately nothing grew out of the relationship. In May 1928 Gamma Sigma Kappa entered into a merger with Iowa Delta chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

During World War II, Pi Kappa Alpha's Executive Director Dr. Freeman H. Hart (Iota, Hampton-Sydney) visited Des Moines and met with Drake President Henry G. Harmon. Harmon, recently appointed chief executive of the university, had been initiated into Pi Kappa Alpha while a graduate student at Transylvania College (Kappa).² Their discussion included the possibility of extension, and Harmon “expressed the hope that his fraternity might eventually have a chapter on the Drake campus.”³ Following the war, Drake—through Roy L. Miller, chairman of the political science department and advisor to Iowa Delta of Sigma Alpha Epsilon—reiterated the administration's positive sentiment towards Pi Kappa Alpha, writing to Freeman Hart that “your organization is among those that we feel would be a real

credit to our campus and a desirable addition to our fraternity system."⁴ The national office of Pi Kappa Alpha responded quickly and cordially, although the fraternity appeared to lack the requisite enthusiasm for a colonization effort.

When Robert D. Lynn (Mu, Presbyterian) succeeded Hart as executive director of Pi Kappa Alpha in late 1946, it is possible that a change of policy occurred concerning extension to Drake. Chi Delta, a Drake local fraternity organized in 1907, expressed interest in affiliation; in July 1947, the national office responded with specific criteria necessary for chartering the group. Pi Kappa Alpha even went as far as to state that if the criteria, essentially constituting approval by area chapters and alumni, were met, Chi Delta "could be installed probably the latter part of October" 1947.⁵ Chi Delta actively began fulfilling the requirements, but its progress was soon halted by Herbert Miller, an influential Pi Kappa Alpha alumnus (Alpha, Phi, Iowa State) who complained "that there was a large number of alumni of [Chi Delta] residing in the City of Des Moines."⁶ Apparently believing that alumni of the well-established Drake local organization would interfere with the operation of a national chapter, Pi Kappa Alpha discouraged Chi Delta from making any further inquiry into the fraternity. It later became the opinion of some within Pi Kappa Alpha that it "missed getting a good group at the time."⁷

Nonetheless, Pi Kappa Alpha maintained interest in establishing a chapter at Drake University. In November 1948, when Dean of Men N. A. Johnson notified Pi Kappa Alpha that there was still a need for more social fraternities on the campus, the national office responded immediately. It became obvious though that establishment of a chapter would be difficult as there were no longer any local fraternities at Drake University and Pi Kappa Alpha did "not have a colonizing program as such."⁸ Executive Director Lynn, willing to make alternate arrangements, promised that a field secretary would be sent to Drake to investigate the situation in the spring of 1949.

Before a representative of Pi Kappa Alpha reached campus, a local fraternity calling itself the Drake University Club "was organized with the intention of colonizing and later becoming a charter member of some national fraternity."⁹ Established in January 1949, the club¹⁰—referred to on campus as "the Ducks"—had grown to 20 men by the time it contacted Pi Kappa Alpha in March of the same year. In late April Field Secretary

John Horton (Beta, Davidson) arrived at Drake for a two-day visit, where he inspected the Drake University Club and spoke at length with President Harmon.¹¹ Upon returning to the national office, Horton reported that

[Although] there is no doubt that an element of risk will be involved by putting a chapter at Drake . . . I am convinced that we should have a chapter [there] . . . I cannot see that it would be any particular advantage to pass up this present group with the colonizing of another group.¹²

Prior to leaving Drake, Horton made recommendations to the Drake University Club, the accomplishment of which he felt "must necessarily be made before they would be ready to affiliate with any national organization."¹³ The recommendations included gaining recognition by the Interfraternity Council (IFC) as a local fraternity, selecting a faculty advisor, establishing an operating financial budget, and increasing membership to a total of 30 men. Additionally, Horton arranged for an April 30, 1949 inspection/visit from Robert Hahnen (Beta Chi, Minnesota), an area official who resided in St. Paul. Duly impressed, Hahnen gave the Drake University Club preliminary approval to petition Pi Kappa Alpha, contingent upon IFC recognition and formal approval by various entities within the national fraternity. Hahnen also determined a projected installation date of March 1950 and convinced the Drake University Club to adopt a Greek-letter name. Delta Xi was selected, presumably because the group would be in line to become Delta Xi chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha.¹⁴

On May 7, 1949, Delta Xi petitioned the Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs for recognition as a local fraternity. Following approval by the body, the request was submitted to the Student Activities Committee of the Drake University Senate. Final approval of Delta Xi occurred on May 16, 1949, and the fraternity took a non-voting seat on the IFC.

Delta Xi acquired a residence at 1127 25th Street in the summer of 1949. During the fall semester, it recruited members and operated under the general guidance of the Iowa State chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha. On November 1, 1949, Delta Xi's 31 members—18 initiates and 13 pledges—formally petitioned Pi Kappa Alpha for a charter. Official notice of acceptance of the petition was communicated to Delta Xi on February 20, 1950.

Less than a week later, the installation

sequence began. On the afternoon of Friday, February 24, 21 members of Delta Xi were initiated into Pi Kappa Alpha¹⁵ by ritual teams from chapters located at Iowa State, Beloit (Beta Iota), Wisconsin (Beta Xi), and Iowa (Gamma Nu). That evening, the initiates and their guests met for dinner at Johnny's Tropical Lounge, 2202 Harding Road. On the afternoon of February 25, the charter of Delta Omicron was presented to the new initiates of Pi Kappa Alpha in the administration lounge of Old Main. Later, an installation banquet was held in the Junior Ballroom of the Hotel Savery. Guests included Powell B. McHaney (Alpha Nu, Missouri), national alumni secretary, Pi Kappa Alpha; Edward Voldseth, dean of men, Drake University; Charles S. Friley, president, Iowa State University; Henry Harmon, John Horton,¹⁶ and Robert Hahnen. Past National Secretary Leo A. Hoegh (Gamma Nu), who later served as both attorney general and governor of the State of Iowa, acted as toastmaster.

Following its installation, the fraternity continued to strive for excellence. Eight pledges were added to the nine which were not initiated as charter members, and Delta Omicron's scholarship surpassed that of all other Drake chapters for the spring of 1950.¹⁷ During the summer, improved quarters were located immediately west of campus at 1346 30th Street. Financial matters appeared under control, having been assisted by "a blood gift to supplement the budget in the amount of \$400 made to the fraternity by 20 members."¹⁸ Yet the early success Delta Omicron enjoyed proved to be short-lived; by the fall of 1952 membership had dropped to 20 men. Experiencing difficulty in retaining pledges until their initiation—a problem which would plague Delta Omicron throughout the 1950s—the chapter's manpower shortage was exacerbated by the Korean War draft. Additionally, the chapter slipped from first to last place in the IFC scholarship rankings. In the spring of 1955, Delta Omicron again appeared to achieve stability; membership had grown to over 40 men, and scholastic improvement had taken place. In the summer of 1956, Delta Omicron relocated to 1342 30th Street. The house corporation did not sell the chapter's prior home, which was located immediately north; instead, it leased it to a dry cleaning operation. Following the move, the chapter again dropped in membership and academic achievement; an initiate observed that "we are still not a compact unit, working together as one. We seem to acquire our unity in spurts, but soon lose

it."¹⁹ Campus image further deteriorated in December 1959 when the IFC Judicial Committee found that Delta Omicron had served alcohol at its Christmas formal. The chapter was placed on social probation for 90 days and general probation for one year; additionally, Delta Omicron was fined \$150.²⁰ Following the lifting of the probation, Delta Omicron was suspended from the IFC for falling below the required 2.09 chapter grade point average during both semesters of the 1960-61 school year.²¹ The university, growing impatient, issued an ultimatum: until recurring problems were overcome and \$3000 in overdue debts paid, the chapter would not be allowed to operate on campus.²²

The national office of Pi Kappa Alpha, upon realizing that Drake University was serious about its proposed action, immediately took steps to aid its Delta Omicron chapter. Sufficient funds "to clear up all financial obligations of the chapter"²³ were forwarded to the house corporation, and James Callahan '63, a member of Pi Kappa Alpha at Ohio State (Alpha Rho), was invited to transfer to Drake and act as resident counselor. In exchange for agreeing "to contribute to a program that will put Delta Omicron on sound footing,"²⁴ Callahan was provided with special training and a \$500 scholarship by the national fraternity, in addition to being supplied room and board by Delta Omicron. The investments in Callahan proved to be well-made. Under his direction, the eight chapter initiates who returned in the fall of 1961

Miss October
JUDY PAULS
DELTA GAMMA

1963 OCTOBER 1963

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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A campus tradition: the Pi Kappa Alpha calendar.

were able to pledge 15 men. One year later Delta Omicron recruited 25 new members, the largest number acquired that fall by any fraternity.²⁵ The chapter was well on its way to achieving the status of a fraternity competitor on the Drake campus.

On January 1, 1963, Delta Omicron relocated to a house it had purchased from the university,²⁶ located at 1080 22nd Street. The residence, locally renowned and referred to as the Peak Mansion, had been built at the turn of the century by George S. Peak, president of the Central Life Assurance Company. Previously occupied for two decades by the women of Delta Gamma, the mansion featured an impressive portico supported by corinthian columns; over a dozen bathrooms; fireplaces in many of its rooms; and a large coachhouse. At its new location, where 35 members resided, Delta Omicron flourished. Membership continued to grow, with a large portion of the chapter involved in varsity athletics. In the summer of 1963 Delta Omicron received honorable mention as one of the most improved chapters of Pi Kappa Alpha; one year later it was presented with the first of four consecutive President's Service Awards, a public service recognition representing one of the highest honors bestowed by the national fraternity. In the fall of 1965 the chapter won the IFC scholarship cup for the first time in 15 years. Campus prestige was further enhanced when Delta Omicron

won Sweetheart Sing in the fall of 1966, a competition which had all but been dominated by Alpha Tau Omega and Sigma Alpha Epsilon from the event's inception in 1935. Pi Kappa Alpha would repeat as winner of the song festival in 1967 and 1968.

In the fall of 1966 an event transpired which had the potential of terminating the rapid and intimidating progress which Delta Omicron had come to enjoy. While driving to work on the morning of September 22, 1966, Dean of Students Arthur Casebeer passed the chapter house and observed Delta Omicron's pledges performing calisthenics on the front lawn. Casebeer parked his car, entered Delta Omicron, and physically removed the fraternity's charter. For over two weeks the chapter operated in limbo; it was unclear if Delta Omicron continued to be a recognized fraternity at Drake University. At the October 5, 1966, meeting of the IFC, it was made clear that Delta Omicron had been "suspended" for "hazing pledges during pre-initiation activities."²⁷ The member fraternities of the IFC felt that the removal of the charter, and the uncertainty surrounding it, had served as sufficient punishment of the chapter. By unanimous vote, the IFC decided that Pi Kappa Alpha should be reinstated and that a committee on unlawful pre-initiation activities be established. However, this act alone was not sufficient to return Delta Omicron to good standing. A recommendation to return the charter from Dean Casebeer needed to be brought before the Student Personnel Committee of the Drake University Senate. On October 14, 1966, the committee took up the matter; by a vote of 13 to two (with six members abstaining), the charter was returned. The national office of Pi Kappa Alpha later learned the "the disciplinary action with regard to hazing was more or less arbitrary in that most fraternities [were] also guilty."²⁸

By the spring of 1967 Delta Omicron had grown to nearly 70 men and was ranked fourth among all chapters of Pi Kappa Alpha for general proficiency of operations.²⁹ In the spring of 1969 Delta Omicron was awarded its first Voltmer Trophy for intramural achievement, and in the fall the chapter became the largest fraternity at Drake University with 84 members.

In November 1969 Larry Dart, a 1967 Drake graduate and initiate of Pi Kappa Alpha, was fatally injured while disassembling a land mine in Viet Nam. A campus scholarship in his memory was created and made available to members of Delta Omicron chapter.



Delta Omicron and friends, 1966.

Frank Vaia

Although Delta Omicron continued to be among the most popular of Drake's fraternities during the early 1970s, changes began taking place within the chapter which in time would seriously undermine its operation. The advanced age of the chapter house became apparent, with wiring and heating systems performing at less than peak efficiency. Members were delinquent in paying their fraternity bills, and as a result over \$3500 in accounts receivable accrued. In 1972 the university observed that Delta Omicron "is a large chapter, composed of 97 members. The house has, however, only a very small nucleus of men who play an active role in chapter affairs."³⁰ By the spring of 1973, membership had dropped to less than 50 men, a large percentage of which regularly missed meetings, and the chapter was being led by a group of inexperienced underclassmen.

On June 1, 1973, Delta Omicron, exhausted by the high maintenance costs of the Peak Mansion,³¹ relocated to 1314 34th Street. The chapter felt that its new home, previously utilized by Gamma Phi Beta Sorority as an annex, would increase its visibility and member morale. However, following a disappointing fall rush, any remaining *esprit de corps* had vanished. The November 18, 1973, minutes of Delta Omicron note a "discussion on a break with national, becoming a local social, athletic club . . . moved and passed to start disassociation with national." The dissatisfaction with the national organization apparently stemmed from Pi Kappa Alpha's refusal to bail-out the financially troubled chapter, and was so strongly held that "35 to 40 members of the house moved out and tried to set up a local group without national affiliation."³² The chapter completely fragmented, leaving a member of Delta Omicron to observe in the January 22, 1974 issue of *The Drake Times-Delphic* that

By the time this letter gets into print my fraternity should be have folded or at least [be] pretty close to it. It is really a sad thing to see one's own fraternity die, especially one that was as proud and prestigious as mine once was. Just a little more than two years ago we had almost a hundred members and were thriving in campus activities, government, and athletics. Now we have somewhere between five and 25 members, and none of us [do]es a thing.

Four men—Jim Bartlett '79, Brad Hill '77, Chet Dallas '75, and John Hirth '76—were left to maintain the chapter and its attendant

financial obligations.³³ In early 1974 the national office of Pi Kappa Alpha sent a representative to review the situation at Drake University. He encouraged the four to vacate the chapter house but continue as a fraternity, and placed the members who had withdrawn support from Delta Omicron on alumni status. Soon thereafter Hirth temporarily left Drake, leaving the fraternity with a membership of three men. Yet Delta Omicron continued, primarily through the leadership of President Dallas; meetings were held regularly and membership in the IFC was maintained.³⁴ New members were not recruited during the fall of 1974, but in the following spring Delta Omicron had the best rush results of any fraternity, acquiring 11 men. By March 28, 1975, when eight men were initiated, the revitalization of Delta Omicron was well under way. By the fall semester, membership had reached 22 men.

In the fall of 1976 Delta Omicron, with a membership of 40 men, acquired a chapter house located at 1234 32nd Street. Previously occupied as the last chapter residence of Alpha Xi Delta, the house was the first to be operated by Delta Omicron in nearly three years. Stabilization was soon achieved; in spring 1978 chapter membership was 61 men, and Delta Omicron had become well-represented in scholarship and athletics. In 1979 the chapter was presented with the Sentinel Award by Pi Kappa Alpha, representing achievement as the top chapter on the Drake campus. Since that time, Delta Omicron has continued its string of accomplishments, which include the receipt of the Voltmer Trophy for three consecutive years, beginning in 1981. The chapter relocated to 1311 34th Street in August 1983, a property which Delta Omicron had originally considered purchasing in 1959.

A liaison, Sweethearts of the Shield and Diamond, was recognized by Drake University on November 10, 1966. Its name was later changed to Sweethearts of Pi Kappa Alpha. Delta Omicron's alumni newsletters have included *The Rebel*, *Delta-O-Data*, and the recent *Delta Omicronicle*. Publication has been sporadic.

John Hirth served as a national undergraduate vice president of Pi Kappa Alpha from 1976-77.³⁵ Later he worked as a field secretary for the national fraternity.

During its 23 years on the Drake University campus, Pi Kappa Alpha has initiated 564 men.

- ¹Minutes, Gamma Sigma Kappa, November 14, 1927.
- ²Transylvania, located in Lexington, Kentucky, was organized by the Disciples of Christ Church in 1836. In 1881, the same religious group established Drake University.
- ³Freeman H. Hart, to Roy L. Miller, July 11, 1946. As anxious as Harmon was to see Pi Kappa Alpha come to Drake, he nonetheless—and understandably so—notified the national office that “from my position, I would not dare to take the initiative in establishing a chapter here.”
- ⁴Correspondence dated July 8, 1946. Miller, who independently contacted a number of the leading national fraternities which were not represented on the Drake campus, was unaware that Dr. Harmon was an initiate of Pi Kappa Alpha until a response was received from the national fraternity to that effect.
- ⁵Charles R. Burton, field secretary, Pi Kappa Alpha, to Dale L. Porter, president, Chi Delta, July 7, 1947.
- ⁶John Horton, field secretary, Pi Kappa Alpha, report to the Supreme Council, Pi Kappa Alpha April 25, 1949.
- ⁷Id. It was later learned that Dr. Harmon was disappointed that he was not consulted on the question of Chi Delta.
- ⁸Robert Lynn, to N. A. Johnson, February 2, 1949.
- ⁹James W. Cleverly, president, Drake University Club, to Robert Lynn, March 22, 1949.
- ¹⁰The constitution of the Drake University Club limited membership to “white Christian, male students”. This clause was consistent with the practices of Pi Kappa Alpha at the time.
- ¹¹Harmon, apparently having grown somewhat impatient over his fraternity’s indecision in regard to Drake, soon thereafter advised Horton to “please follow this through to a conclusion one way or another.”
- ¹²John Horton, report to the Supreme Council, April 25, 1949.
- ¹³Id.
- ¹⁴A group at the University of Indiana became Delta Xi chapter two weeks prior to the Drake installation of Pi Kappa Alpha.
- ¹⁵James Cleverly (president), Kermit Geiger, Alvin Golz, James Hart, Ray Hickman, Ted Hoff, Hillis Johnson, Howard Kennedy, Clyde McOwen, Richard Maultra, Dwight Miller, David Osborne, Ray Palanca, Clarence Parason, Earl Rae, Clifford Sellers, Merle Swanson, Daryl Thomason, William Washkosha, and William Mendland. Only one alumnus—Francis Gibson—was initiated, attesting to the brief life of Delta Xi as an organization.
- ¹⁶Horton would later take a position on the national council of Pi Kappa Alpha as alumni secretary.
- ¹⁷However, due to its probationary status on the IFC, Delta Omicron was not presented with the scholarship cup.
- ¹⁸“History of Delta Omicron,” September 1951 to June 1952, submitted to national office.
- ¹⁹“History of Delta Omicron,” 1959 to 1960, submitted to national office.
- ²⁰C. V. Galbreath, dean of students, to Larry Heming, president, Delta Omicron, December 17, 1959.
- ²¹The chapter’s grade point average for the fall of 1960 was 1.774 for initiates and 1.579 for pledges; the combined chapter average for spring 1961 was 1.88.
- ²²Paul Boland, dean of students, to James Henderson, administrative assistant, Pi Kappa Alpha, January 30, 1961.
- ²³Earl Watkins, executive director, Pi Kappa Alpha, to Paul Boland, dean of students, Drake University, August 30, 1961.
- ²⁴Earl Watkins, to James Callahan, August 23, 1961.
- ²⁵However, an over-zealous Delta Omicron apparently overlooked the rush rules; on September 21, 1962 it was suspended from informal rush for the remainder of the semester and placed on “rush probation” for one year. The previous semester, the chapter had been fined \$30 for pledging two men who lacked a 2.0 cumulative grade point average.
- ²⁶Delta Omicron originally had not intended to move; instead, in the spring of 1962 the chapter had drawn up plans for an \$18,000 addition to its 30th Street property. Although the national office approved a loan for the full amount the university was less than enthusiastic about the project, which was eventually dropped.
- ²⁷Minutes, Drake Interfraternity Council, October 5, 1966.
- ²⁸J. Lance Parker, field secretary, Pi Kappa Alpha, memo to the files, January 23, 1967.
See also: editorial, “Why Punish One Fraternity and not Another,” “The Drake Times-Delphic,” October 19, 1966.
Ironically, Delta Omicron had been a finalist for Pi Kappa Alpha’s 1966 National Pledge Training Award.
- ²⁹Garth Jenkins, to James Passlaes, president, Delta Omicron, November 16, 1967.
- ³⁰Kenneth Vegors, administrative assistant to the vice president of student life, to Dr. Stephen Schodde, coordinator of student development services, mid-year report, April 21, 1972.
- ³¹The mansion was sold to New Life, a religious

community, for \$21,000, which covered back taxes and the balance of the mortgage.

³²"The Drake Times-Delphic," January 22, 1974.

³³In September 1974, the chapter was owed \$1,512.42 by 22 members, and had debts totaling \$3,533.11.

³⁴The fraternity purchased an advertisement in the 1974 Greek Week program which read "Pi Kappa Alpha is Alive and Well!" The advertisement was repeated in 1975.

³⁵The progressive board of directors of Pi Kappa Alpha consists of five alumni, two undergraduates, and a non-voting legal counsel.

Research assistance for this section was provided by James Cleverly '50, John Hirth, Frank Vaia '67, and Richard Murgatroyd, executive director, Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

Pi Kappa Phi

Founded December 10, 1904, at the University of Charleston. Total charter grants: 138, of which 100 remain active. Total initiates: 44,580. Colors: gold, white, and blue; flower: the red rose.

The Pi Kappa Phi Club organized December 1948; installed as the 52nd or **Beta Delta** chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity April 24, 1949.

PI KAPPA PHI can attribute its existence at Drake University to the persuasive talents of the national fraternity's executive director, W. Barnard Jones (Alpha, Charleston). In February 1948 John Coons '50, and Gilbert Hawkins '50, transferred from Iowa State College in order to take advantage of the Drake actuarial science program. Both men had been members of Alpha Omicron of Pi Kappa Phi at Iowa State, and their chapter had contacted the national offices in the hope that Coons and Hawkins could be enlisted to organize a chapter in nearby Des Moines. One afternoon early in the semester, when Coons and Hawkins returned to their

apartment, Jones was waiting for them. In very plain language, Jones informed the two that they *would* organize a chapter of Pi Kappa Phi at Drake. Coons and Hawkins tried to argue that they had transferred in order to pursue professional and not social goals, but Jones would not take no for an answer. Through Jones' insistence and a promise of financial aid to the two students in the event the colony was approved, Coons and Hawkins reluctantly took on the responsibility.

Pi Kappa Phi had actually contacted Drake University in advance of Jones' visit. In January 1948 Field Secretary Charles Martin



The men of Beta Delta, 1953.

(Alpha Sigma, Tennessee) inquired into fraternity expansion at Drake; the university's reply was that "This school's administration does not object to another national fraternity coming onto campus."¹ The university was in fact soliciting the colonization of a number of national fraternities, although Pi Kappa Phi had not previously been included in the search. Pi Kappa Phi proceeded to focus its attention on the Drake local Chi Delta, but when it was clear that the group was determined to become a chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon, Pi Kappa Phi decided to establish a colony. However, it was not until June 11, 1948 that Pi Kappa Phi submitted a formal request for permission to organize at Drake University.

Action on the request was slow. Allegedly, member fraternities of the Interfraternity Council (IFC) attempted to block endorsement because of the size and lack of prestige of Pi Kappa Phi nationally. On November 4, 1948, the Committee for Fraternity and Sorority Affairs unanimously endorsed the petition,² citing positive recommendations of Pi Kappa Phi from other campuses. The committee's approval was then forwarded to the Student Activities Committee of the Student Faculty Council, which considered Pi Kappa Phi on December 3, 1948. The committee responded favorably, and the Pi Kappa Phi Club became officially recognized. Coons and Hawkins, who had been informally contacting Drake students about Pi Kappa Phi throughout the fall, held their first organizational meeting on December 10, 1948. Ten men who expressed interest became the first pledges of the Pi Kappa Phi Club.

When spring rush began in January 1949, Alpha Omicron chapter was generous in loaning money and its most able recruiters to the colony. As the Pi Kappa Phi Club did not occupy a residence, it relied upon local alumni of the fraternity to sponsor smokers and dinners in their homes. With the support of these two groups the colony was able to pledge 12 men. Upon learning that the Pi Kappa Phi Club had grown to over 20 members, Dean of Men Robert Kamm wrote to Pi Kappa Phi on February 8, 1949, inviting the national organization to charter the colony. Although Pi Kappa Phi had not originally planned to install the colony until the fall semester, it gladly accepted the university's invitation.³

The installation sequence began on March 5, 1949, when Alpha Omicron chapter initiated 16 members of the colony into Pi Kappa Phi.⁴ On April 22, two additional pledges

were brought into full membership. On Sunday April 24 the colony was officially installed at Beta Delta chapter of Pi Kappa Phi. Executive Secretary W. Bernard Jones presented the charter to the group at a reception held in the administration lounge of Old Main. In the evening an installation banquet was held at the Hotel Kirkwood, which featured speeches by Jones, Past National President George Driver (Nu, Nebraska), National Historian Frederick Grim (Xi Roanoke), and Robert Kamm. During the program Alpha Omicron chapter was formally recognized for its assistance in establishing the chapter.

In the fall of 1949 Beta Delta acquired a residence located at 2916 Cottage Grove Avenue. Prior to the acquisition of housing, the fraternity had held meetings in the basement of Lochroft Hall, 1255 30th Street.

1950 was a successful year for Beta Delta. Pi Kappa Phi would have received the scholarship cup in the spring had it not been a probationary member of the IFC. It did, however, receive recognition for earning top fraternity scholarship for the fall semester, by which time Beta Delta's membership had grown to 50 men. In the fall of 1952 Pi Kappa Phi again received the scholarship cup, which it would retain for five consecutive semesters.⁵ The fraternity began renting a chapter house from Drake, located at 3303 University Avenue, which Theta Chi had vacated in 1951 for financial reasons. For the remainder of the 1950s the chapter's involvement on campus was minimal, although it won the Drake Relays float competition six out of the seven years it participated.⁶



This Mediterranean-style residence, located at 3420 Kingman Boulevard, served as Pi Kappa Phi's chapter house from 1962-73.

By 1960 Beta Delta had begun experiencing financial and scholastic problems. During both semesters of 1961, the chapter's grade point average was below 2.0.⁷ A year later,

when it appeared that the university was to sell the chapter house, Pi Kappa Phi began considering a number of possible homes on Kingman Boulevard. Through the assistance of the fraternity's national office, a duplex at 3420 Kingman was acquired at a cost of \$34,850. The residence proved to better accommodate the chapter, but its distance from campus placed Beta Delta at a marked disadvantage during rush.

In 1966 the chapter owed creditors \$3,300 and had failed to collect an equally large amount from its members. Further disappointed by Beta Delta's academic performance and dwindling numbers, Field Secretary John Davis (Beta Beta, Florida Southern) expelled 15 of the chapter's initiates. This reorganization left seven men to run the fraternity; on September 13, 1966, this small group voted to continue as a chapter. Again assisted by Alpha Omicron chapter, Beta Delta was able to pledge an additional 13 men. In spite of this turmoil, the Drake chapter received fraternity scholarship honors for the fall semester of 1966. Further academic success resulted in Pi Kappa Phi presenting Beta Delta with the Will E. Bennington Award for Scholastic Achievement in February 1968. Membership began to grow; by the fall of 1968, the chapter consisted of 35 men. However, within a year membership had slipped to 17, at which time the chapter notified its alumni that

It appears that we are in a vicious circle—we need members badly, therefore we cannot weed out as effectively pledges who are just not material for the fraternity. For the last couple of years, Beta Delta has taken everyone they could, and now we are paying for that mistake because unworthy pledges almost always make unworthy brothers.... Within three years, with or without alumni support, Beta Delta will again be among the top five fraternities at Drake. If we are not, we won't be here.⁸

The prophesy of the undergraduates proved to be accurate. In three years time, Pi Kappa Phi re-emerged as the scholastic leader among fraternities and acquired a 21-man pledge class in the fall of 1972. During the summer of 1973, Beta Delta purchased the former home of Alpha Phi, located at 1226 34th Street. In addition to being twice the size of the Kingman Boulevard property,

the new residence allowed Pi Kappa Phi a more advantageous and convenient location in the Greek community. At its 34th Street address, Beta Delta would come to know a level of success unexperienced in its previous years at Drake.

The spring of 1974 marked the initiation of Beta Delta's 300th member and the 25th anniversary of the chapter's installation. Dignitaries, including Pi Kappa Phi Executive Director Durward Owen (Xi, Roanoke), attended a special anniversary celebration in April. The chapter continued to succeed, and in the fall of 1975 Beta Delta's president observed that

In my three and one-half years at Drake, I have seen our chapter change from a house of 22 men to a house of 69 men. We have come to be regarded as one of the top two or three fraternities on campus. We have come a long way, and considering the caliber of underclassmen, I think we are destined to become an even better fraternity.⁹

During the 1976-77 school year, Pi Kappa Phi was perhaps the most politically active fraternity at Drake, with members heavily involved in nearly every major campus activity; of particular note was Beta Delta's involvement in the IFC. The late 1970s saw the fraternity's campus involvement diminish, although the chapter remained highly successful in membership recruitment.

An alumni journal, *The Bedeltian*, has been published consistently since 1949. A liaison, the Little Sisters of the Star and Lamp, was recognized by the university in 1970. This came several years after the organization of such groups by other fraternities on campus.

Of particular note has been Beta Delta's scholastic achievement. Since 1950, the chapter has won the scholarship award 15 out of a possible 65 times.

Awards presented to Beta Delta by the national fraternity include: the Theron Houser Award for Chapter Improvement, 1973; the National Champion Chapter Award, 1977; and an Excellence in Recruitment Award, 1981. Beta Delta has been cited a "Master Chapter" by Pi Kappa Phi on a number of occasions for its general efficiency.

During its 34 years at Drake University, Beta Delta has initiated 496 men.

¹Norman A. Johnson, chairman, Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, to Pi Kappa Phi, February 13, 1948.

²The petition of Phi Mu was accepted on the

same day, with the sorority's Zeta Delta chapter subsequently reinstalled in December 1948.

³Norman Johnson had communicated to Dean of Men Robert Kamm the immediate need for a

new fraternity, noting that "of the male student population of 3,054, only 453 of this number are affiliated with any of the present fraternities on campus."

⁴Schuyler D. Hales, Berkley P. Duncan, Milton E. Dengenhardt, William R. Jones, William H. Bahnks, Curtis W. Kelley, David A. Sears, John P. Higgins, Eli Reese, Robert A. Denhart, C. Ray Deaton, Dale L. Jensen, Robert D. Howell, Donald E. Phillips, and Roger J. Brown.

Initiated on April 22 were James H. Gritton and Kenneth R. Miller.

The colony included nine pledges who were not initiated at the time of the installation.

John Coons, Beta Delta's first president, and Gilbert Hawkins are considered to be founders of Beta Delta, and their names are included on the fraternity's charter. Earl Fitz, who transferred to Drake University from Beta chapter at Presbyterian College shortly before installation, is also considered a founder.

⁵In the spring of 1954 "the wrong John Thompson" was figured into the grade point average of Alpha Tau Omega, which was mistakenly pre-

sented with the scholarship award. Correcting the error gave Pi Kappa Phi a .049 margin over ATΩ, and the scholarship cup.

⁶Apparently Beta Delta's achievements were so undistinguished that in 1955 Pi Kappa Phi's executive secretary wrote to Drake University stating that "Pi Kappa Phi would like very much to have a chapter on your campus." Edward Voldseth, dean of men, responded "We are glad that Pi Kappa Phi is anxious to have chapter at Drake University, because Drake is anxious to retain its already-existing chapter of Pi Kappa Phi."

⁷Although Beta Delta's grade point average was 2.264 for the spring semester of 1962, it remained on academic probation for being more than one-tenth of a point below the all-men's average.

⁸"The Bedeltian," Fall 1969.

⁹"The Bedeltian," Fall 1975.

Research assistance for this section was provided by John Coons and Durward Owen, executive director, Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Founded March 9, 1856, at the University of Alabama. Total charter grants: 230, of which 189 remain active. Total initiates: 190,000. Colors: royal purple and old gold; flower: the violet.

Sigma Beta Kappa founded February 21, 1910; installed as the 119th or Iowa Delta chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity February 5, 1921.

SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON took a tremendous risk in accepting the petition of the Drake local fraternity Sigma Beta Kappa in 1920. Although Sigma Alpha Epsilon was the largest and perhaps—as stated by *The Evening Tribune* upon word of Sigma Beta Kappa's request for a charter—"the most influential national men's college fraternity in the United States,"¹ the organization did not achieve its stature through the exercise of bad judgement. Phi Delta Theta, Sigma Chi, Kappa Sigma, and Phi Kappa Psi, each a leading fraternity of the period, were all presented with the opportunity to pioneer the fraternity field at Drake, yet all declined. Undoubtedly, Sigma Beta Kappa's achievements in part prompted Sigma Alpha Epsilon

to look beyond Drake University's modest enrollment and endowment, and the additional uncertainty accompanying the establishment of the first chapter of a national fraternity on a formerly anti-Greek campus.

Sigma Beta Kappa was founded on February 21, 1910, as a fraternity for Drake law students. Its founders included Harley E. Jackson '12, W. N. Vanderwaal '12, H. L. Winsor '11, Robert D. Paterson '12, E. Earl Feike '11, Don B. Shaw '11, Homer Corrie '11, Samuel Thompson '11, John McCutcheon '11, Floyd Don Carlos '12, and Frank Wilson '11. The 11 students were joined by Casper Schenck, professor of corporate law at Drake University. In order to conform to the trustees' prohibition against fraternities, the public name



Professor Casper Schenck and the 11 Drake University law students who organized Sigma Beta Kappa, as they appeared in the year of the fraternity's founding.

Sword and Balance Klub was adopted. Initially, membership was limited to 18; this number was later increased to 26 men. In 1917, when the fraternity opened its membership to students outside of the College of Law, two "degrees," or levels of membership were created. The Sword (indicating preparation) was conferred upon "pre-professional" men enrolled in liberal arts, while the Balance (indicating justice) was limited to law students. Sigma Beta Kappa's colors were originally purple and gold; in 1918, they were changed to purple and white.

Within the first year of its founding, Sigma Beta Kappa acquired a fraternity residence located at 1056 26th Street. The organization achieved immediate recognition by Drake students and the three local fraternities which had been established several years earlier. In 1911 it joined Gamma Sigma Kappa, Tau Psi, and Chi Delta in the formation of the Inter-Club Council, the forerunner of the Interfraternity Council.

Much of the success Sigma Beta Kappa enjoyed is attributable to the professional achievements and contributions of its alumni. At the fraternity's 1916 annual banquet, the Sigma Beta Kappa Alumni Association was organized. Within a year, \$2000 had been pledged for the construction of a permanent home for the fraternity, which had since moved to 1061 21st Street. By the time Sigma Beta Kappa submitted its petition to Sigma Alpha Epsilon, alumni pledges to the fund had exceeded \$3000.²

After the United States entered World War I, the Men's Pan Hellenic complied with War Department directives in suspending the operation of social fraternities. Sigma Beta Kappa relinquished its residence, and ceased operations on the campus for the duration of the hostilities abroad. Although only four of the fraternity's pre-war membership returned to Drake in early 1919,³ reorganization took place, and a house was secured at 1140 21st Street. Attention was then turned to national affiliation.

When the Drake University Board of Trustees finally gave permission to the campus' local fraternities to petition national organizations, Sigma Beta Kappa held "meeting after meeting, meeting after meeting"⁴ in order to determine with whom it would affiliate. Sigma Beta Kappa was approached by two unrecorded national fraternities, but instead eventually decided to pursue Sigma Alpha Epsilon. The Des Moines Alumni Association of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, which itself had been contacted by several Drake locals, was anxious to place a chapter of its

fraternity at the university. However, it took its time in investigating Sigma Beta Kappa. After several months, Sigma Alpha Epsilon's local alumni endorsed the local fraternity, stating that "other fraternities will enter Drake immediately, and we may go in among the first, unhandicapped by the question of taking in a local of doubtful strength."⁵ A petition was prepared, and ten members of the fraternity—five alumni and five undergraduates—made plans to attend Sigma Alpha Epsilon's 1920 convention in St. Louis. In order to finance the trip, Sigma Beta Kappa's 24 Des Moines alumni were convened. The undergraduates "hit them for \$30 apiece and they got checks from 23 of them before they left the room."⁶ The fraternity then launched an impressive public relations campaign with the goal of acceptance of its petition by Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Although numerous strategies were employed, two deserve mention. First, a jazz band—consisting of three members who played piano, saxophone, and banjo—were assembled to perform and draw attention to Sigma Beta Kappa. "They practiced and practiced until they could have played the program in their sleep. By the time they arrived in St. Louis, they sounded like professionals."⁷ In time, the ensemble would prove invaluable in soliciting the support of convention delegates. An effort equally laudible was the fraternity's commissioning of J. N. "Ding" Darling, a syndicated cartoonist with *The Des Moines Register*. Darling sketched a duck—representing Sigma Beta Kappa of Drake—addressing a lion, symbol of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, "We believe you'll like us if you take us in." The caricature—whose creator went on to win two Pulitzer prizes—was taken along to the convention and surprisingly made the front page of *The St. Louis Globe-Democrat* on the day Sigma Beta Kappa was being voted upon by the delegation.

When the time came for Sigma Beta Kappa to address the national fraternity's convention on December 30, 1920, it did so most ably. Sigma Beta Kappa alumnus Rex Fowler '19, commendably withstood a barrage of questions presumably posed to uncover some weakness in his organization. When asked what Sigma Beta Kappa would do if its petition was rejected, Fowler replied that

If we were refused at this convention and any encouragement was given us to come back—in fact, without the encouragement, we would be back at your next convention; and indeed we would be back at every one

from now to doomsday until either you kicked us out or—

whereupon his voice was overcome by applause.⁸ Fowler was supported by James D. LeCron (Illinois Psi Omega, Northwestern), who represented the Des Moines Alumni Association of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and delegates from Iowa Gamma chapter at Iowa State. The convention, duly impressed, accepted the Sigma Beta Kappa petition on the same day by a vote of 104-24.

The installation of Sigma Beta Kappa as Iowa Delta chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon began on the afternoon of Saturday, February 5, 1921. Forty alumni and 23 undergraduates⁹ were initiated by a ritual team headed by Executive Secretary William "Billy" Levere (Illinois Psi Omega) and National Secretary O. K. Quivey (Indiana Beta, Purdue). The ceremony, was held at the Ancient Order of United Workmen hall, located at 2100 Grand Avenue, and was preceeded by a luncheon with over 75 alumni of the national organization in attendance. That same evening a banquet was held at the Hotel Fort Des Moines; 150 members of the fraternity—including undergraduate representatives from chapters located at Iowa State, Iowa (Iowa Beta), and South Dakota (South Dakota Sigma)—participated in the event, which included a toast program led by James D. LeCron. Drake President Arthur Holmes, Dean of Men Daniel W. Morehouse, and Dean of Law C. J. Hilkey welcomed the fraternity on behalf of the university. William Levere presented a keynote address, and chapter alumni reported that some \$6000 had been pledged toward the construction of a new residence.¹⁰

The fraternity benefitted significantly from national affiliation, a distinction it alone held on campus until 1923. In that same year Iowa Delta relocated to 2805 Cottage Grove Avenue. The chapter's alumni believed that the time had not arrived to economically undertake the construction of a fraternity residence, nor had such an opportunity yet presented itself when Iowa Delta moved to 3318 Forest Avenue in 1925. For nearly a decade the fraternity operated out of the latter property.

In 1927 Iowa Delta initiated Roy L. Miller, a political science instructor at Drake University. Miller had become acquainted with members of the chapter in his classroom, who desired to bring him into the fraternity. A national bylaw prohibiting the initiation of honorary members was circumvented when Miller enrolled in a single course on campus,

permitting his induction and marking the beginning of a 54-year relationship¹¹—culminating with the office of national president—between Miller and the fraternity. The alumni leadership of Miller—along with that of another Iowa Delta initiate, Paul Ashby '33—proved invaluable to the long-term success of the chapter.

Few national fraternities had been as optimistic about Drake University as had Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and by 1928 only Iowa Delta and Alpha Tau Omega were represented on the campus.¹² Although the Drake chapter of Alpha Tau Omega represented a younger organization, it had proven an able competitor; it became the opinion of some that it had actually surpassed Sigma Alpha Epsilon. When Alpha Tau Omega acquired the Buxton family mansion—at the time the largest fraternity house in the State of Iowa—Iowa Delta sought a way to reassert its superiority. The chapter succeeded through absorbing the undergraduate and alumni membership of the Drake local fraternity Gamma Sigma Kappa. Founded as the first fraternity on campus in 1906, the membership of Gamma Sigma Kappa included a number of influential professional and community leaders. The local organization had failed in its attempts to affiliate with Phi Kappa Psi and Sigma Nu, and was anxious to become a part of Sigma Alpha Epsilon through Iowa Delta. On May 26, 1928, 44 undergraduate and alumni members of Gamma Sigma Kappa were initiated into the fraternity. A special banquet was held at the Hotel Fort Des Moines with William T. Brandon (Alabama Mu, Alabama), governor of Alabama and past national president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, as guest speaker. More than increasing the size of Iowa Delta, the merger—the first and only in Sigma Alpha Epsilon's history—greatly enhanced the chapter's building fund. Each initiate paid or signed a promisory note for \$160, only a small portion of which was submitted to the national fraternity.¹³

When the Depression arrived, Iowa Delta's finances and alumni support placed it in a better position to endure than any other Drake organization. The fraternity was not noticeably affected by the financial crisis, and in the fall of 1933 announced plans to build a \$25,000 home on the northwest corner of 32nd Street and University Avenue. The dwelling was to be "three stories and brick"¹⁴ and sleep 30 men, but for some reason never materialized. Instead, the fraternity purchased its present home, located at 1235 34th Street, one year later. The residence, one of the most handsome in the area,



A self-assured group of Drake "Sig Alphas," 1930.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon

was constructed in 1914 at a cost of \$30,000. Although the spacious and functional dwelling constituted a near-perfect chapter house, the fraternity's neighbors on 34th Street did not welcome its tenants with open arms. In January 1935 a complaint was filed with the city building commissioner by area residents, alleging that the chapter possessed and misused "a radio which reaches out to foreign lands and returns with assorted international noises."¹⁵ It was subsequently discovered that the chapter house—a multiple dwelling—violated zoning laws by being located in a residential district. A three-and-one-half-year court battle ensued, during which Iowa Delta was denied a request for rezoning and was ordered to relocate. However, a series of appeals demonstrated that there had been no official publication of notices for a public hearing in 1925 when the zoning ordinance was originally proposed. This fact rendered the ordinance void, and the chapter was permitted to retain its 34th Street property.¹⁶

The years 1938-41 were a prosperous time for Drake's fraternities, including Sigma Alpha Epsilon. When the United States entered World War II, the size of Iowa Delta prevented an immediate impact. However, in 1943 Army Air Corp Cadets took over the chapter house, resulting in meetings being

moved to the University Church of Christ. By 1944 membership had fallen to 11 men, with the chapter remaining active through the efforts of Roy L. Miller and alumnus Clarke Wilson '38. Eight members of Iowa Delta died in the conflict, including:

Lieutenant Ray Bidwell '44
Major Robert Blackburn '42
Lieutenant Charles Bryant Jr. '36
Jim Carroll '41
Lieutenant James Convy '41
William Jack '42
Lieutenant Edmund Lorenz '37
Lieutenant William Miles '45

The cadets vacated the chapter house in the summer of 1944, at which time the residence was leased by Kappa Alpha Theta for the 1944-45 school year.

Reorganization following the war was undertaken without difficulty. In the fall of 1946 Iowa Delta celebrated its 25th anniversary at a banquet with over 400 individuals in attendance, including Sigma Alpha Epsilon's Executive Secretary Lauren Foreman (Georgia Epsilon, Emory), National Chronicler Dr. Chester D. "Chick" Lee (Iowa Gamma), and chapter alumnus Governor Robert Blue '22. In the same year, Sigma Alpha Epsilon began

an unprecedented 14-year winning streak in the Sweetheart Sing competition.



Sigma Alpha Epsilon

On January 16, 1947, Iowa Delta initiate Robert Blue, right, began his second term as governor of Iowa. Administering the oath of office was the Hon. Charles Wennerstrum, chief justice of the Iowa Supreme Court and also an initiate of Iowa Delta through the chapter's 1928 merger with his own fraternity, Gamma Sigma Kappa.

In the summer of 1948 the chapter and its alumni devised the Iowa Delta Student Plan, which sponsored the education of a German student at Drake University for one year. Feeling that "German school boys . . . have been crushed intellectually and psychologically by education slanted toward Nazi doctrines,"¹⁷ Iowa Delta—through cooperation with the university—covered all the educational, travel, and living expenses for two foreign students.¹⁸ At least 10 additional chapters of Sigma Alpha Epsilon adopted the much-lauded plan, which required that the German student reside in the chapter's house.

By the spring of 1950, Iowa Delta's membership had grown to 106 men. Spurred on by the mature leadership of the many veterans¹⁹ within the chapter, Iowa Delta continued its tradition of campus achievement. However, by 1956 the number of non-veterans exceeded veterans for the first time in a decade, and an unstabilizing "element [was] permitted to enter the house."²⁰ Alpha Tau

Omega and a recently installed chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon both exceeded Iowa Delta in size; it was thought that Sigma Alpha Epsilon had likewise slipped in prestige. To remedy the situation, the national office of Sigma Alpha Epsilon appointed an alumni commission in the spring of 1957. The commission—composed of local alumni—oversaw membership selection, finances, scholarship, and other operations of Iowa Delta. Within several years of the commission's inception, a significant turnaround within the chapter was obvious, and Iowa Delta once again led the fraternity field at Drake.

The 1960s were a rather uneventful, albeit successful decade for Iowa Delta. Membership ranged from 70 to 97 men, and the chapter continued to be actively involved in Greek and campus activities.

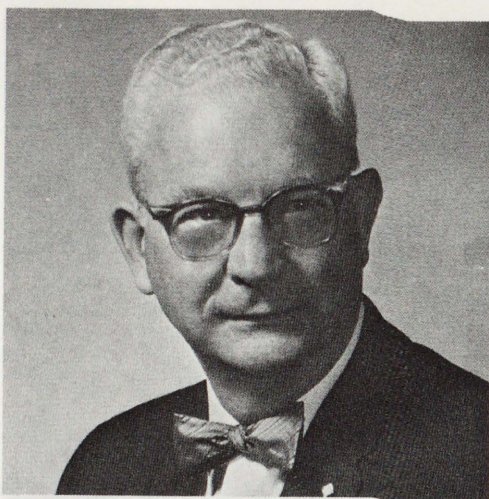
While many chapters which had enjoyed the prosperity of the 1960s fell prey to the "fraternity depression" of the 1970s, Iowa Delta remained essentially unaffected. Membership again exceeded 100 men, partially through the affiliation of a large number of Iowa Delta legacies. The chapter won the Voltmer Trophy, representing outstanding intramural athletic achievement for a record seven consecutive years beginning in 1973.

During the 1980s, Sigma Alpha Epsilon at



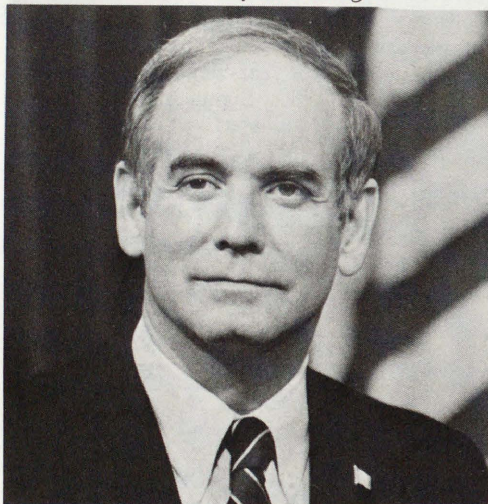
Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Iowa Delta's chapter house—which has been occupied by the fraternity for half a century—was featured on the cover of the February 1953 issue of *The Record of Sigma Alpha Epsilon*.



Two of Iowa Delta's 1500-plus initiates have gone on to serve as national president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon: Roy L. Miller, left, and Dr. Louis Smith.

Drake has continued to be a fraternity rich in tradition. Although not nearly as involved in fraternity and university affairs as has been in previous years, Iowa Delta continues to make contributions to its 62-year heritage.



In the fall of 1968, Robert D. Ray became the second Iowa Delta initiate to be elected to the governorship of the State of Iowa.

The initiates of Iowa Delta include a number of notable alumni. Charter member Robert Blue served as governor of the State of Iowa from 1945-49; Robert Ray '52, held the same office from 1969-83. Charles Wennerstrum '14, a member of Gamma Sigma Kappa initiated into Sigma Alpha Epsilon at the time of the merger of the two organizations, was a justice on the Iowa Supreme Court from 1941-58. Patrick S. Johnson '63, was the

author of *Fraternity Row*,²¹ a narrative about Greek life which was released in 1963. Roy L. Miller served as national president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 1967-69; vice president, 1965-67; warden, 1963-65; herald, 1961-63; and chronicler 1959-61. Dr. Louis E. Smith '51 held the offices of national president, 1977-79; vice president, 1975-77; warden, 1973-75; and herald, 1971-73. Bruce Foster '78, acted as director of finance and administration for the national fraternity from 1978-83. In 1978 David Arendt '78, was named Sigma Alpha Epsilon's director of chapter development; presently, he holds the title of director of development, the Levere Memorial Foundation. Gary Olney '61, became Drake University's vice president for business and finance in 1983. Paul K. Ashby, Roy L. Miller, and Louis Smith are all recipients of Sigma Alpha Epsilon's Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor the fraternity bestows upon its members.

The Docket, the name of the alumni newsletter utilized by Sigma Beta Kappa, was retained for several years following the chapter's installation. During the 1930s the publication became known as *The Delta*. In more recent years, *The Iowa Delta Review* has been distributed by its faithful editor, chapter alumnus Paul K. Ashby. A liaison, the Little Sisters of Minerva, was originally organized as a mothers' club in September 1961. By the later 1960s, the group's membership consisted solely of coeds.

During its 62 years at Drake University, Sigma Alpha Epsilon has initiated 1,619 men.²²

¹"The Evening Tribune," October 21, 1920. The issue bore a banner headline announcing that "S.B.K. PETITIONS S.A.E."

²"The Phi Alpha of Sigma Alpha Epsilon," February 1921, p. 104.

³Ibid, p. 109.

⁴Ibid, p. 104.

⁵"The Phi Alpha of Sigma Alpha Epsilon," December 1920, p. 311.

⁶"The Phi Alpha of Sigma Alpha Epsilon," February 1921, p. 110.

⁷Joseph Walt, *The Era of Levere: A History of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity 1910-1930* (Evanston, Illinois: Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 1972), p. 377. Walt's work is an excellent source for further background on Sigma Beta Kappa's affiliation with Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

⁸"The Phi Alpha of Sigma Alpha Epsilon," February 1921, p. 103.

⁹Alumni initiates: Glenn A. Kenderdine, John McCutchen, Harley E. Jackson, Russell E. Ostrus, Claude A. Peterson, William N. Vanderwall, Henry Winans, Harry S. Johnson, S. Louis Ostrum, Wells C. Peck, Charles A. Doxsee, Merrill L. Granger, Samuel O. McClurg, Ralph Young, Francis P. Allen, Francis C. Beverley, Wier Casady, Waldo A. Morrison, Ira L. Wright, Rex Hale Fowler, Donald Harlow, Francis P. Harned, Edmund K. Koht, Mott S. Hammond, George S. Neel, William E. Watson, Fred C. Alexander, Warren E. Johnston, Winfield C. Jackley, Roy L. Pell, John C. Benson, Guy F. Bradley, Daryl D. Johns, Mahlon D. Lewis, Wallace M. Moore, Harold F. Stebbins, Burr C. Towne, Fred G. Neu, Clarence B. Sadler, and Southard P. Whiting. Jackson and Vanderwall were among the 11 students who founded Sigma Beta Kappa.

Undergraduates: Clarence E. Brown, William S. Dulaney (president), Berkely Gaynor, Guy R. Wismer, Robert D. Blue, Stanley M. Doyle, Claude H. Gilchrist, Robert B. Goode, Haswell W. Grant, Evert R. McGrath, John K. Reese, John H. Riggs, Edwin I. Allen, Howard J. Moore, Carroll F. Anderson, J. Vernon Gordon, Ralph W. Bateman, Carl S. Jaeger, Arden Bruch, Howard E. Pagett, Frances B. Dickinson, Frank L. Staves, and Willard Lee McDaniel.

Dean Hilkey, who had been associated with

Sigma Beta Kappa since 1917, was later initiated into Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

¹⁰"The Record of Sigma Alpha Epsilon," March 1921, pps. 11-12.

¹¹Miller died in the summer of 1981 while in attendance at Sigma Alpha Epsilon's 125th anniversary national convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

¹²Actually, three other national fraternities had installed chapters on campus by 1928: Kappa Alpha Psi, Phi Beta Delta, and Square and Compass. However, none were members of the Drake Interfraternity Council, nor did were they typically involved in Greek competitions or activities.

¹³For additional information, see *Gamma Sigma Kappa*.

¹⁴"The Des Moines Register," September 23, 1933.

¹⁵"The Des Moines Tribune," January 9, 1935.

¹⁶However, complaints that the chapter house represented a "constant nuisance" continued. A 1944 action to "perpetually" enjoin the fraternity from use of the house proved unsuccessful.

¹⁷"The Record of Sigma Alpha Epsilon," August 1948, pps. 401-02.

¹⁸The first, Bernard Dehmelt, went on to study at the University of Pennsylvania under the sponsorship of Pennsylvania Theta chapter. Dehmelt was initiated by Iowa Delta.

¹⁹Active in the chapter and on campus at the time was Robert D. Ray, who went on to be governor of Iowa for 14 years.

²⁰Robert H. Kibbe, dean of students, to Rex A. Smith, executive director, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, March 6, 1957.

²¹Not to be confused with the movie of the same name.

²²Not only does this number exceed the initiates of any other Drake fraternity; it places Iowa Delta among the top 20 chapters of Sigma Alpha Epsilon in terms of total men initiated.

Research assistance for this section was provided by David Arendt, Paul K. Ashby, and W. Renn Gade '82. The authors express their gratitude to the national office of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Evanston, Illinois, for permitting the generous use of its fraternity library.

Sigma Chi

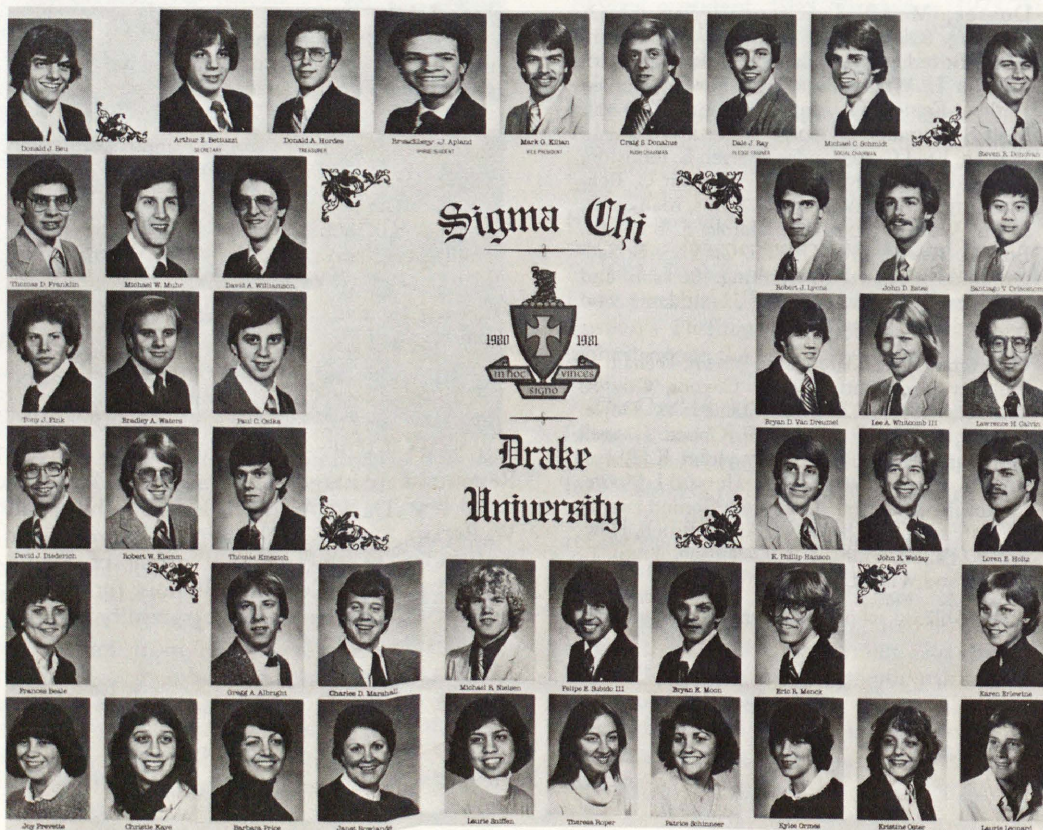
Founded June 28, 1855, at Miami University. Total charter grants: 208, of which 182 remain active. Total initiates: 167,000. Colors: blue and old gold; flower: the white rose.

Phi Sigma Chi colony organized August 1976; installed as the 204th or Theta Gamma chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity December 6, 1980.

SIGMA CHI, it was originally thought, would be among the first national fraternities to place a chapter at Drake University. In 1920 Judge Lawrence DeGraff (Omicron, Chicago),¹ a Des Moines resident and national president of Sigma Chi, had proven instrumental in convincing Drake's trustees to permit the campus' local societies to petition national organizations. In particular,

DeGraff had come to champion the cause of the Drake local fraternity Chi Delta, an impressive group which desired to become a chapter of Sigma Chi. The likely acceptance of Chi Delta by the national organization appeared so promising that other petitioning locals on campus cited Sigma Chi as endorsing expansion at Drake.

Apparently, there was a good deal of mis-



Theta Gamma's charter members were among those individuals included in this 1981 chapter composite.

quoting going on. A number of Sigma Chi chapters—including Beta Omicron at Iowa State—were opposed to placing a chapter at Drake. This sentiment could not be overcome, and in the spring of 1921 Chi Delta's petition failed to receive the requisite number of affirmative votes for affiliation.²

In the spring of 1948 Sigma Chi again received correspondence from Drake. The university's administration, due to a tremendous jump in enrollment, was interested "in a normal increase in the number of good national fraternities on campus."³ Sigma Chi's response was limited to the fact that Drake was not on its approved list for purposes of extension.

Ten years later, in the fall of 1958, the Drake local fraternity Phi Delta Delta investigated the possibility of affiliating with Sigma Chi. Although established with the specific intent of petitioning Phi Delta Theta, Phi Delta Delta had become weary of a lengthy certification process. Sigma Chi reaffirmed the position it had taken a decade earlier;⁴ in the national fraternity's eyes, Drake University remained a campus unworthy of extension.

It was not until the early 1970s when roles reversed and Sigma Chi began to express an interest in Drake University. The national fraternity had historically restricted its affiliation to established local fraternities but in a few limited and special circumstances took its own initiative to form a local fraternity. The actual establishment of such a colony became largely the responsibility of a regional official in conjunction with local alumni and area undergraduate chapters of Sigma Chi. Such an arrangement was desired for Drake.

Although many national fraternities were eager to colonize on the Drake campus when expansion was considered in the fall of 1975, only two—Sigma Chi and Phi Gamma Delta—were selected for final consideration. On April 14, 1976, Lance Johnson (Alpha Xi, Kansas), an area official of Sigma Chi, and four members from the Beta Omicron chapter at Iowa State visited Drake University to make a presentation on behalf of their fraternity. In the afternoon Sigma Chi met with members of the Office of Student Life, emphasizing Sigma Chi's strength and prestige, and explaining its extension policy. That evening, a similar presentation was given to the Interfraternity Council (IFC). A week later representatives of Phi Gamma Delta traveled to Drake to make their bid for a Drake colonization; on the same day—April 21—the IFC reached its decision. Art Tatge,

fraternity advisor, contacted Lance Johnson, stating that

It is our privilege to extend to Sigma Chi National Fraternity an invitation from Drake University and our Interfraternity Council to colonize and establish a Sigma Chi chapter here next fall.

Sigma Chi immediately accepted. When fall rush began on August 23, 1976, Johnson and undergraduate members of the Iowa State chapter established a Sigma Chi information table in Drake's student union, the Olmsted Center. The table was a scheduled stop on the formal rush rounds, and Sigma Chi's representatives had the opportunity to meet each rushee. Although Johnson's promise of the colony being chartered within 12 to 18 months sounded attractive, only six men accepted the offer of membership. Undoubtedly, the results disappointed Sigma Chi, who thought it could take Drake by storm. The university's administration, however, had been more pragmatic, having established a goal of 10 members for the colony by the conclusion of its first year.⁵

At the advice of the national fraternity, the colony—composed of Bruce Allen Funk '80, Steve Allen Hutzell '79, David Robert Krugley '78, V. Lawrence Miller '80, Kit M. Nicholson '80, and Timothy Robert Smith '80⁶—selected Phi Sigma Chi as its name. The fraternity proceeded to develop its own ritual, traditions, and, with the assistance of Sigma Chi, a pledge program. The group took a seat as a non-voting member of the IFC and began to hold weekly meetings in the Olmsted Center. By March 1977 Phi Sigma Chi had grown to 11 men, and a liaison, the Daughters of the White Rose, had been established.

In the summer of 1977 Phi Sigma Chi submitted to Sigma Chi a Declaration of Intent, the first step in the national fraternity's petitioning process. The document was returned to Phi Sigma Chi "without prejudice," for submission at a later date. Inadequate manpower was given as the reason behind its non-acceptance.

Phi Sigma Chi was accorded full voting rights on the IFC in the fall of 1977. During the same semester the colony participated in its first Greek Week, where it received third place honors in Sweetheart Sing, and the scholarship trophy for the 1976-77 academic year.⁷ These accomplishments earned Phi Sigma Chi some much needed attention, but the fraternity—headquartered on a Drake dormitory floor—continued to feel somewhat outcast without its own residence. It was not

until the summer of 1978 that housing was located. Even then Phi Sigma Chi's membership had not yet grown to a point where a full-fledged fraternity house could be maintained. Instead, the south one-third of a building acquired by Founder Nicholson's father, located at 1137 26th Street, was rented and occupied by eight members. The colony remained at this address for a year, significantly increasing its campus activities and membership during the period.

In the spring of 1979 the members of Phi Sigma Chi began to see their efforts result in progress. Membership had grown to 23 men and a house corporation was organized in an attempt to purchase a property at the northwest corner of 33rd Street and Forest Avenue. Upon resubmission of the Declaration of Intent, it was accepted by Sigma Chi. The accomplishments of the colony prompted Coordinator of Greek Affairs Bob Kerr to report that

Without a doubt, [Phi Sigma Chi] is the number one chapter on campus. While they still have areas to be improved on, membership numbers and alumni, they are easily head and shoulders above every other group.⁸

Although some Drake fraternities felt that the comments were gratuitously made in order to accelerate the chartering process, Phi Sigma Chi had, in fact, made significant progress and had earned the respect of the Greek community.

In the fall of 1979 12 members of the colony took up residence at 3305 Forest Avenue. Phi Sigma Chi experienced the most successful rush of its short history, and continued to achieve on campus, although for the first time it failed to receive the scholarship trophy. Phi Sigma Chi seemed well on its way to receiving a Sigma Chi charter, and the colony proceeded to petition the national organization. In support of the petition, Drake President Wilbur Miller wrote that

We are pleased over the prospect of another national fraternity joining our already active group. The men of Phi Sigma Chi have worked hard to fulfill all of the necessary requirements for recognition. I am pleased to add the university's support to their petition.⁹

In spite of the fact that the colony was three men short of the national fraternity's membership requirement, it was told in January 1980 that upon the arrival of a positive vote of Sigma Chi's active chapters Phi Sigma Chi would be installed.¹⁰ Upon further correspondence, the formal installation of the fra-

ternity as a chapter of Sigma Chi was set for Saturday, April 19.¹¹ Subsequently, there was some confusion as to whether Phi Sigma Chi could include graduating seniors in its membership requirement, and it suddenly appeared that the plans for the installation were a false start. In March, Sigma Chi announced it was postponing the installation of Phi Sigma Chi, explaining that it was "giving the chapter more time to build up the financial resources," in addition to increasing membership and overall organization.¹²

Slightly snubbed yet undaunted, Phi Sigma Chi continued to pursue its imperative of national affiliation. Additional members were secured, and in November 1980 the national fraternity determined that Phi Sigma Chi—having fulfilled the requirements for petitioning—would become The Gamma chapter of Sigma Chi on December 6, 1980. In the meantime Phi Sigma Chi had the responsibility of building a \$3,500 savings account. Sigma Phi Epsilon presented the group with \$50, which was followed by substantial gifts from the IFC and Drake Panhellenic Council.

The installation of Phi Sigma Chi as the Gamma Theta chapter began on November 30, 1980, with a week of indoctrination for staff members and national officers of Sigma Chi. Friday, December 5, marked the beginning of the installation sequence, and on the following day preliminary and final initiation ceremonies took place at the Grace United Methodist Church and the Olmsted Center respectively.¹³ That evening an installation banquet was held at the Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn. Featured speakers and guests included National President S. Jack McDuff (Beta Phi, Arizona), past National President James F. Bash (Rho, Butler), past Area Governor Lance Johnson, and Drake President Wilbur Miller.

Following its installation, Theta Gamma continued to excel. The chapter won two successive Sweetheart Sing competitions and undertook its first annual Derby Days,¹⁴ a week long carnival of events designed to raise money for the fraternity's national philanthropy project, cystic fibrosis. In the summer of 1982 Theta Gamma was awarded Sigma Chi's Peterson Significant Chapter Award for "good but not impossible performance in chapters in all major fields of operations, programs, and activities."¹⁵ The national fraternity also presented the chapter with a Legion of Honor award for successful scholastic programming. In 1983 Theta Gamma repeated as a recipient of both awards.

Upon graduation from Drake University

1981, Gamma Theta charter member John Estes began serving as an editor of *The Magazine of Sigma Chi*.

During its three years on the Drake campus, Sigma Chi has initiated 89 men.

¹Judge, Polk County District Court, 1910-20; justice, Iowa Supreme Court, 1921-32.

²"The Sigma Chi Bulletin," May 1921. A three-fourths affirmative vote was required for acceptance of a local fraternity; the actual vote was 80 to 53.

³George S. Beery, dean of students, to J. Russell Easton, executive director, Sigma Chi, February 9, 1948.

⁴William L. Denton, assistant executive director, Sigma Chi, to Neil Seeber, president, Phi Delta Delta, October 8, 1958.

⁵Drake University, "Goals and Objectives of Fraternity Affairs 1976-77," July 22, 1976.

⁶Timothy Smith resigned from the group prior to the conclusion of its first year.

⁷For several years, scholastic recognition was given on an annual rather than semesterly basis. Phi Sigma Chi placed fourth in scholarship in the spring of 1977, although it had the highest grade point average for the 1976-77 school year.

⁸During the 1979 spring semester Kerr's office ranked all fraternities on campus.

⁹To S. Jack McDuff, national president, Sigma Chi, November 30, 1979.

¹⁰Robert Brodie, acting coordinator of Greek affairs, to Dave Williamson, president, Phi Sigma Chi, January 14, 1980.

¹¹Douglas A. Michels, director of chapter develop-

ment, Sigma Chi, to Phi Sigma Chi, February 8, 1980.

¹²Douglas A. Michels, to Robert Brodie, March 17, 1980.

¹³Brad Apland (president), David Diederich, John Estes, Anthony Fink, Steven Koulogorge, Arthur Bettuzzi, Robert Lyons, Lawrence Calvin, Steve Donovan, Craig Donohue, Thomas Franklin, K. Phillip Hanson, Donald Beu, Donald Hordes, Michael Muhr, Thomas Kmezich, Paul Osika, Charles Marshall, Bradley Waters, Erick Menck, Santiago Crisostomo, Bryan Moon, David Williamson, Michael Nielsen, Gregg Albright, Michael Schmidt, Loren Holtz, Felipe Subido, Mark Kilian, Brian Van Dreumel, Dale Ray, John Welday, and Lee Whitcomb. Alumni and honorary members initiates: Bruce Funk, Thomas Norquist, V. Lawrence Miller, John Stanton, Kit Nicholson, Peter Baylon, David Larson, and Thomas M. Tronick. Funk, Miller, and Nicholson were among the six founders of Phi Sigma Chi.

¹⁴The Drake Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega had conducted its own version of Derby Days during the 1950s and '60s.

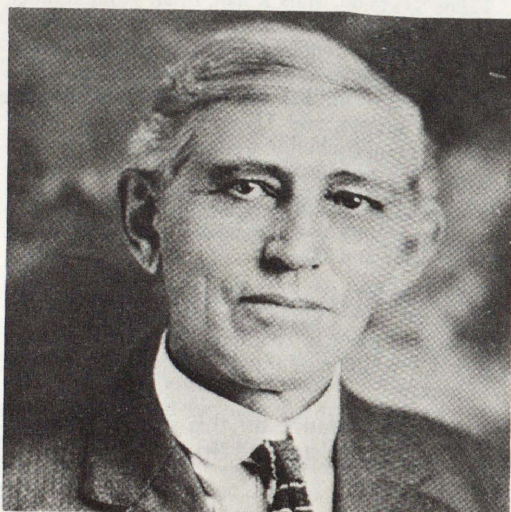
¹⁵Fred Yoder, ed., *The Norman Shield* (np:n.p., 1980), p. 149. Theta Gamma was joined by 65 other Sigma Chi chapters who were given the award, including the two other chapters located in Iowa.

Research assistance for this section was provided by John Estes and Bruce Funk.

Sigma Nu

Founded January 1, 1869, at the Virginia Military Institute. Total charter grants: 210, of which 180 remain active. Total initiates: 152,000. Colors: black, gold, and white; flower: the white rose.

Beta Delta installed as the 30th chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity April 15, 1891. Inactive by fall of 1893; declared non-operating 1902.



Grant Harrington of Sigma Nu, responsible for the establishment of the first fraternity at Drake University.

"SIGMA NU enjoys the distinction of being the last fraternity in Drake University," wrote the editor-in-chief of *The Delphic* in May 1894. The accuracy of this statement proved to be short-lived; three decades later the university reversed its prohibition against such "undemocratic" organizations, and was in fact inviting them to establish chapters on campus. In time, Greek-letter social organizations became as integral a part of Drake as its Relays, creating a reverence for Sigma Nu as the university's first, rather than its last, fraternity.

At the 1890 Sigma Nu national convention, held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the fraternity adopted a plan for rapid extension into Northern and Western campuses. Prior to that time Sigma Nu had been primarily a

Southern fraternity; however, its leaders came to realize that without a progress extension policy, the organization would be behind its competitors. Placed in charge of the extension program was Grant Harrington (Nu, Kansas), a Kansas attorney who, as Grand Recorder of Sigma Nu, fulfilled the role of the fraternity's executive secretary. Harrington believed that among the prime locations for the fraternity's western chapters were small yet prominent colleges in the Midwest. Many of these institutions officially opposed the establishment of fraternities; however, Harrington doubted that any action would be taken in the event the prohibitions against Greek-letter societies were actually put to a test. As such, in 1891 groups were established at Missouri Valley College (Beta Gamma), Marshall, Missouri; Drake University (Beta Delta), Des Moines, Iowa; and Upper Iowa University (Beta Epsilon), Fayette, Iowa. By 1897, all three chapters had ceased to function.²

Beta Delta chapter at Drake University was established primarily through the efforts of Charles M. Cathcart '96, who transferred to Drake in the fall of 1890 from Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa, where he had been initiated into Sigma Nu (Chi).³ Cathcart desired to have a chapter of his fraternity at Drake, and in March 1891 he succeeded in obtaining an investigation of the campus by Grant Harrington. Harrington, apparently impressed by the opportunities which awaited Sigma Nu at the university, prepared a charter for Cathcart shortly thereafter. On April 15, 1891, Cathcart directed the installation of Beta Delta chapter; joining him as charter members were his brother Frank '91, Herbert Everest '91, George Gonder '92, and William Chisholm '91. Initially, meetings

were held in the Cathcart family home, located at 1174 26th Street, but were later moved to the literary society meeting rooms on the third floor of Old Main.

Until 1920, Drake University prohibited the presence of national fraternities on its campus; thus, the existence of Sigma Nu was closely guarded by its membership. Nonetheless, Beta Delta was able to attract five additional members during the first semester of its existence. In May 1891, two initiates of the chapter gained the backing of the literary societies to which they belonged.⁴ In *The Delphic* student newspaper staff election, the fraternity's candidate for editor-in-chief was successful, while its nominee seeking the position of business manager was defeated. However, the prevailing candidate for business manager was later initiated by Beta Delta, allowing the fraternity to control the student publication during the 1891-92 school year.

Beta Delta enjoyed additional achievements during 1891-92. Its membership grew to 13 men, and the fraternity held "more honors than any other organization in the university."⁵ Allegedly, initiates took "first honors in scholarships, athletics, debates, [and] presidencies of local literary societies."⁶ Beta Delta believed that its operation continued to be unknown by the university community, and even went as far as to instruct Harrington to "wrap in unstamped paper" the chapter's copies of the fraternity magazine.⁷ In actuality, Beta Delta's existence had become a matter of common knowledge following *The Delphic* election of 1891, after which "plans and schemes were secretly discussed for the overthrow of [the] organization" by enraged students.⁸ Reflecting the then-prevalent belief that fraternities were undemocratic, the student body adopted the position that

It was evident, that, if this order be allowed to live, similar orders would be necessary to overcome its absolutism, and the entire studentship would be driven into one or another.⁹

It was in fact the belief of Grant Harrington that the presence of a competing fraternity "would materially strengthen" Beta Delta.¹⁰ But before a rival group could be established, the chapter's momentum was permanently curtailed. The May 1892 *Delphic* election again included a slate composed of Sigma Nu initiates, who presumed that their victory would be an easy one. However, the anti-fraternity forces had succeeded in making the existence of Sigma Nu well

known, and as a result of their efforts "an overwhelming victory for the 'barbarian' ticket" occurred.¹¹ The outcome of the election signified more than the defeat of the fraternity's candidates; it meant that student opinion had massed against Sigma Nu, and its presence on the Drake campus would no longer be tolerated.

Only four initiates of Beta Delta returned to Drake in the fall of 1892. That December Frank Cathcart notified Grant Harrington that the chapter was "rather demoralized" and that "the faculty [is] on to us."¹² Cathcart went on to state that "We have not had a meeting so far this year. If you want this chapter to do anything, you had better write the other members personal letters."

By the following spring Beta Delta's situation had not improved. The chapter informed Harrington that it had "given up all hopes of . . . doing anything at Drake this year," citing "obstacles that stood in our way that could not be overcome."¹³ For whatever reason, Sigma Nu had completely disappeared from the Drake campus by the fall of 1893.

Beta Delta's charter was not immediately revoked by Sigma Nu. Not until the fraternity's Indianapolis convention of 1902 was such action taken, with the recognition that Beta Delta had "for all intents and purposes ceased to exist as [an] active, subordinate" chapter.¹⁴

The possibility of reviving Beta Delta chapter has arisen on several occasions. During the 1922-23 school year the Drake local fraternity Gamma Sigma Kappa expressed interest in affiliation with Sigma Nu; such a union would have been an appropriate one, as in 1906 Gamma Sigma Kappa became the first fraternity to be organized on campus following the demise of Sigma Nu. Apparently the national fraternity did not then find the prospect of returning to Drake to be feasible, as nothing ever became of the proposal. Following World War II, Sigma Nu "expressed an interest"¹⁵ in re-establishing Beta Delta; its failure to follow through was likely due to "a very real housing problem"¹⁶ facing fraternities during that period. Over a quarter of a century later, in 1976, the university once again considered expansion; on this occasion Sigma Nu made it unequivocally clear that it "would greatly like to see the charter restored to Beta Delta at Drake."¹⁷ Although Sigma Chi was ultimately selected for purposes of colonization, Sigma Nu's hope of reviving Beta Delta chapter did not diminish. Its continuing interest was evidenced by its selection as one of three fraternities considered to

be added to the campus in the spring of 1982. In spite of the fact that Sigma Nu was the frontrunner among the national organizations examined for expansion, the re-establishment of Beta Delta was further postponed when the instability of several Drake chapters resulted in the termination of the expansion process.

Perhaps someday Sigma Nu will return to Drake University, fulfilling the vision that Charles Cathcart possessed nearly a century

ago. In the interim, the original founders of Beta Delta chapter should not be forgotten. Risking expulsion from the university and in fact subjecting themselves to the wrath of their peers, a handful of men brought the first fraternity to Drake University and, in the process, marked the beginning of a tremendous history.

During its two years at Drake University, Sigma Nu initiated 15 men.

¹Harrington occupied the position from 1888-94. During this period he also served as editor of Sigma Nu's journal, "The Delta."

²Beta Gamma was revived in 1931. The charter of Beta Epsilon was transferred to Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1954.

³Chi chapter was established in 1888. Another of its initiates, Carl Lane Clemans, was responsible for the organization of Beta Chi chapter at Stanford University in 1891. Beta Chi was the first chapter of Sigma Nu established on the West Coast.

⁴Sigma Nu was particularly strong in the Philomathian Society. During 1891 and 1892, four of its initiates—including Charles Cathcart—acted as president of the literary society. Members of Beta Delta also exercised influence in the Athens and Alethea societies.

⁵"The Delta of Sigma Nu," June 1892.

⁶Frank Cathcart, to John C. Scott, February 17, 1925. At the time, Scott was writing a history of the Sigma Nu Fraternity, which was published in 1926.

The minutes of the Drake Philomathian Society support Cathcart's claims.

⁷R. J. Roberts, president, Beta Delta, to Grant Harrington, March 16, 1882.

⁸"The Delphic," May 1894.

⁹Id.

¹⁰Report to the Sixth (1892) Grand Chapter of Sigma Nu, as published in "The Delta of Sigma Nu," August 1892.

¹¹"The Delphic," May 1894. The term barbarian was once used in reference to independent or unaffiliated students.

¹²December 26, 1892.

¹³Arthur A. Pentacost, to Grant Harrington, undated.

¹⁴Resolution of the Eleventh (1902) Grand Chapter of Sigma Nu, as published in "The Delta of Sigma Nu," February 1903.

¹⁵N. A. Johnson, dean of men, Drake University, to Robert Kamm, dean of students, February 11, 1949.

¹⁶Id.

¹⁷Maurice Cottingham, director of public relations, Sigma Nu, to Arthur Tatge, Drake Interfraternity Council Advisor, January 19, 1976. Tatge was an initiate of Sigma Nu.

This section is dedicated to Maurice Littlefield, executive director, Sigma Nu Fraternity, whose research assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

Sigma Phi Epsilon

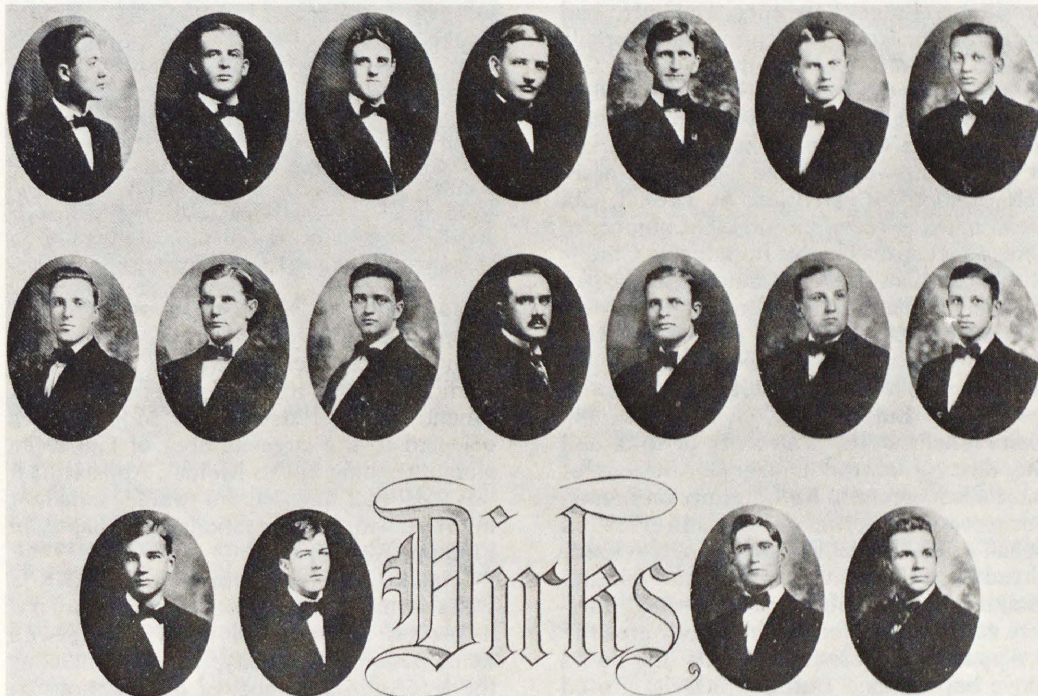
Founded November 1, 1901, at the University of Richmond. Total charter grants: 290, of which 246 remain active. Total initiates: 141,000. Colors: purple and red; flowers: the violet and the dark red rose.

Chi Delta founded January 30, 1907; installed as the 102nd or Iowa Delta chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity May 9, 1948.

SIGMA PHI EPSILON at Drake University is the descendant of Chi Delta, the campus' most transitory fraternity. Between its establishment in 1907 and the acceptance of its petition by Sigma Phi Epsilon in 1948, Chi Delta slipped into inactivity on three separate occasions.¹ Fortunately, the fraternity's loyal alumni undertook three successful revivals; neither two world wars nor the Great Depression could keep Chi Delta inactive.

Chi Delta was founded on January 30, 1907, becoming Drake's second local fraternity.² Ed L. Newell '10, Steele Blake '09,

Daniel W. McCord '09, Everett H. Stevens '10, and W. Earl Coffee '10, met with Don McCuley '07, in his boarding house room on 28th Street to form Delta Chi. It was not until several years had passed that Delta Chi realized a national fraternity of the same name had been established at Cornell University in 1890.³ In recognition of this fact, the letters were transposed, and Chi Delta was adopted as the official name of the organization. However, until the prohibition against fraternities was lifted in 1913, Chi Delta was known publicly as the Dirk's



A group of early Chi Delta initiates who appeared in the 1910 edition of the university annual.

Club—a derivation of the fraternity's original name—or alternately Triangle-X.⁴

The first decade of Chi Delta's history went for the most part undocumented. From its inception, the fraternity's members were heavily involved in varsity athletics. In 1908 the organization's 13 members secured Drake's first fraternity house at an unrecorded address on 28th street. In 1911 Chi Delta became a charter member of the Men's Inter-Club Council. During the same year, Dr. Holmes Cowper, dean of the College of Fine Arts, began a long-term relationship with the fraternity as faculty advisor. Chi Delta relocated to 22nd Street in 1913, and to 3205 University Avenue a year later. In 1916 the fraternity moved to 1317 27th Street.

As a member of the Men's Pan Hellenic, Chi Delta agreed to suspend fraternity operations during the latter part of World War I. Over 100 initiates of Chi Delta participated in the war effort, and two—William N. Moore '16, and John D. Stuart '19—lost their lives in the conflict.

Following World War I, Chi Delta was immediately reorganized, and the fraternity undertook a drive for national affiliation. The group determined that if and when Drake University sanctioned the petitioning of national fraternities, it would attempt to gain favor with Sigma Chi. When Drake's trustees cleared the way for the chartering of campus locals in February 1920, Sigma Chi's national president, Judge Lawrence DeGraff, had been a major factor in securing the favorable action. DeGraff took up the cause of Chi Delta, and in the spring of 1921 endorsed its petition to Sigma Chi. However, many chapters of Sigma Chi—including Beta Omicron at Iowa State—did not see Drake as a desirable location for extension. As a result, Chi Delta failed to receive a sufficient number of votes to receive a charter from Sigma Chi.

In 1928 Chi Delta resumed the goal of national affiliation. Phi Gamma Delta was contacted, but responded that Drake University was not on its accredited list for extension. Phi Delta Theta was likewise researched. Emery Ruby, an initiate of Phi Delta Theta at the University of Iowa and the director of the Drake Department of Journalism, wrote to his fraternity on numerous occasions between 1928 and 1932 on behalf of Chi Delta. Phi Delta Theta—which already had three chapters in Iowa—felt that establishing a chapter at Drake would interfere with its plans for "symmetrical" growth.⁵

Apparently weakened by its failure to move beyond local status, Chi Delta proved unable to withstand the pressures brought on

by the Depression; in June 1934 the fraternity became inactive. In spring 1937 alumni of Chi Delta secured 11 undergraduates and re-established the fraternity. The group was initiated by Founder Steele Blake at a special banquet attended by 50 alumni at the Hotel Commodore. Ceremonies also included the pledging of 14 additional undergraduates.

In the fall of 1937 Chi Delta acquired a residence at 1320 34th Street. By June 1939 "certain conditions and circumstances"⁶ beyond the control of the fraternity forced it to relinquish the house. However, Chi Delta was again maintaining a home by the following January. Fifteen of the fraternity's 25 members moved into the structure, which was located at 3324 University Avenue.

In 1943 only a few Chi Deltas remained on campus. The fraternity's residence at 2900 Brattleboro Avenue was given up and Chi Delta dissolved for the duration of World War II. Chi Delta initiate Captain Robert E. Kraft '41, lost his life in service to his country.

On March 4, 1946, the Office of the Dean of Students approved the reorganization of Chi Delta. Seven members who had returned from the service succeeded in securing eight pledges.⁷ Although Chi Delta was unable to locate housing, it immediately made a push toward national affiliation.

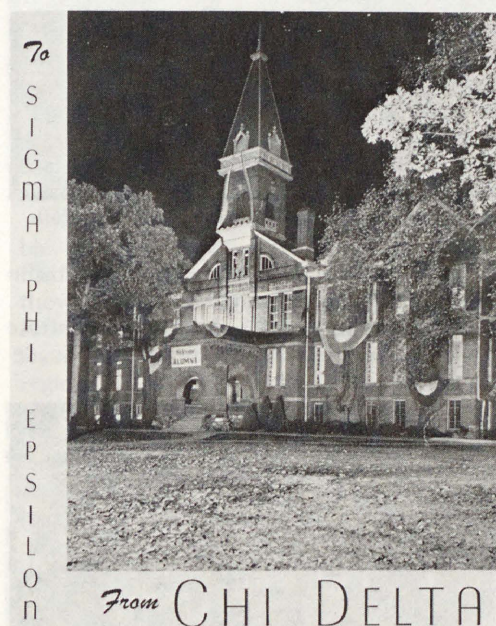
It appears that Chi Delta first pursued association with Pi Kappa Alpha. Initial contact between the two organizations occurred in the spring of 1947; by the summer, the possibility of Chi Delta being chartered was significant enough for the national office of Pi Kappa Alpha to state that

Your chapter probably could be installed in the latter part of October [1947]. We would like to keep in close contact with you so that we may be able to minimize the time requirement for this negotiation.⁸

However, Chi Delta's relationship with Pi Kappa Alpha never proceeded to the petitioning stage. Herbert Miller, a respected alumnus of the national fraternity and an executive with Pittsburg-Des Moines Steel, objected to the large number of Chi Delta alumni residing in Des Moines. Apparently it was felt that the alumni would somehow interfere with the operations of a chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha.⁹

Drake University, concerned that Chi Delta would again fall into disorganization if it proved unsuccessful in affiliating with some national fraternity, began contacting the leaders of a number of organizations on its behalf.¹⁰ However, Chi Delta had already

begun building a relationship with Sigma Phi Epsilon. George Rutledge (Missouri Alpha, Missouri), president of the Des Moines Alumni Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon, was contacted and was able to convince the alumni group that the efforts of Chi Delta in obtaining affiliation with his fraternity were worthy of assistance. For some reason Drake University was skeptical; local alumni recalled having to schedule several meetings with administrators in order to convince them that Sigma Phi Epsilon was a suitable fraternity for the campus. Eventually, President Harmon, Dean of Students Beery, and Dean of Men Johnson acquiesced, and a field secretary was sent to Des Moines to assist Chi Delta in the preparation of a petition to Sigma Phi Epsilon. Thirty-six active members and 40 pledges signed the petition, which was submitted in mid-March 1948. The petition was accepted almost immediately by Sigma Phi Epsilon.



Chi Delta, Drake University's longest-lived local fraternity, petitions Sigma Phi Epsilon, 1948.

Installation of Chi Delta as Iowa Delta chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon began on the evening of May 8, 1948, when 31 Chi Delta undergraduates and nine alumni were pledged to Sigma Phi Epsilon.¹¹ On the following morning, the pledges were initiated by members of Sigma Phi Epsilon from Iowa Wesleyan (Iowa Alpha), Iowa State (Iowa Beta), and the University of Iowa (Iowa Gamma). On the evening of May 9 an instal-

lation banquet was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Savery. Dignitaries attending the affair included William W. Hindman, Jr. (Pennsylvania Delta, Pennsylvania), executive secretary of Sigma Phi Epsilon; Dr. William C. Smolenske (Colorado Beta, Denver), national sergeant-at-arms; Seth Slaughter, dean of the Drake Bible College; Henry Harmon, George S. Berry, and N. A. Johnson.

Iowa Delta, with a membership of over 70, soon found its modest chapter house at 2916 Cottage Grove Avenue impractical. In the summer of 1949, a much larger dwelling at 1073 37th Street was acquired. Financing the purchase of the residence was ingeniously organized:

Members gave amounts ranging from \$10 to \$150 to help finance the house. Several members, short of funds, donated blood to veterans hospitals and turned over the checks received from such donations to the chapter.¹²

Although Iowa Delta proved a successful rush competitor during the early 1950s, a membership drain caused by the Korean War curtailed substantial growth. In the fall of 1956, 16 of the chapter's 52 active members left for the service and "in effect opened up an active chapter at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri."¹³

In May 1956 the Drake chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon established what would become an infamous yet popular tradition when it began awarding the "Monster Jug." As described in an Iowa Delta pledge manual:

[the] monster of the month jug is a large earthenware jug which is awarded to the active who has managed to come up with the most unattractive date for the month. The unlucky brother's name is then inscribed on the jug along with the names of other brothers with equally poor taste.

In the fall of 1956 Iowa Delta became the largest fraternity at Drake University with 89 members. The chapter would rarely fall below 60 men until the mid-1970s.

Sigma Phi Epsilon entered the 1960s as one of the top fraternities at Drake University. From the fall of 1956 through the fall of 1960, Iowa Delta was the largest fraternity on campus. In 1958-59 and again in 1959-60, the fraternity received the Voltmer Trophy for outstanding athletic achievement. In the spring of 1960, Iowa Delta won its first—and to date, its only—Sweetheart Sing competition. These noteworthy achievements elevated Iowa Delta to one of the top five chapters of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

On February 17, 1960, Iowa Delta was

DELTA GAMMA & SIGMA PHI EPSILON



Sponsor an
ALL
GREEK
TWIST
PARTY

8 - 12 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 28
Delta Gamma Lot

FREE
REFRESHMENTS

twist it!

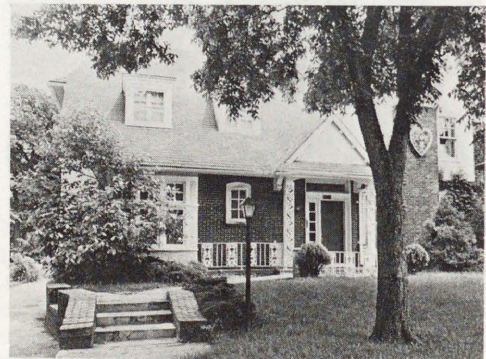
Sigma Phi Epsilon co-sponsored the All-Greek Twist Party, a popular campus event, throughout the 1960s.

found guilty by the Interfraternity Council (IFC) Judicial Committee of holding an "unauthorized, unchaperoned" social function, where the "use of alcoholic beverages" was permitted. Although the activity was not authorized by the chapter, and less than one-fifth of its members attended, Iowa Delta was placed on social probation for one semester and general probation for one year. Additionally, the fraternity was fined \$200; Iowa Delta's attempts to appeal the decision were unsuccessful. Sigma Phi Epsilon's national president commented that he was "very disappointed," and pledged that with local alumni assistance, "the chapter operation will be closely supervised in the future."¹⁴ In spite of the promise, the cumulative grade-point of Iowa Delta's fall 1960 pledge class was below a 2.0.

Two years later, in February 1962, Iowa Delta conducted a "pledge skip" to the University of Wisconsin without the permission of Drake administrators. The chapter was fined and placed on general probation until 1963. The national office of Sigma Phi Epsilon again stated that it would closely supervise Iowa Delta "in hopes that some

more actions will not need to be taken against our chapter in the future."¹⁵

Subsequent events would demonstrate that the supervision extended was inadequate.



Since 1962, Iowa Delta's chapter house has been located at 1215 34th Street.

In the spring of 1962 Iowa Delta contemplated the construction of a three-story addition to its chapter house. Although the fraternity's residence as it stood could not accommodate its large membership, Iowa Delta was told by the City Zoning Board of

Adjustment that there was "no basis shown"¹⁶ upon applying for permission to build. In rejecting Sigma Phi Epsilon's request, the city accommodated the wishes of the fraternity's neighbors, who had mounted a protest against the organization and its proposed construction.¹⁷ As a result of the failure of having its property rezoned, the Sigma Phi Epsilon Alumni Board purchased a residence at 1215 34th street in the summer of 1962.¹⁸

In the early morning hours of November 10, 1962, an event transpired which exceeded any remaining patience Drake University had for Iowa Delta.¹⁹ Following Sweetheart Sing, 37 pledges took over the chapter house. When somewhere between 20-30 active members attempted to enter the house at approximately 12:45 a.m., the pledges erected barricades to prevent their entrance. The actives retaliated by tossing bricks through windows, breaking down the front door, and spraying water from a garden hose into the house. When eight policemen arrived on the scene shortly after 1:00 a.m., they found "150 youths" were engaged in a "major disturbance."²⁰ Jerry Burmeister '63, president of Iowa Delta, was able to disperse the fraternity's members, and none were arrested.

Immediately the university reviewed possible sanctions against the fraternity. Sigma Phi Epsilon's neighbors let it be known that they would no longer tolerate the chapter's activities, and one in particular threatened legal action. Edward Axthelm (Iowa Beta), a regional official of Sigma Phi Epsilon, traveled to campus and acknowledged the need for discipline, but urged the university to act with restraint. The alumni of the chapter concurred with Axthelm and emphasized the hardship which would occur in the event the chapter's residence was closed, as monthly mortgage payments to the house corporation would be terminated. On November 15, Dean of Students Paul Bloland and Dean of Men Donald Burnett met with Axthelm and Robert Kirkpatrick (Idaho Alpha, Idaho State), assistant director of chapter services for Sigma Phi Epsilon; Kirkpatrick suggested that an alumni council be organized to oversee the reorganization of the chapter. Bloland responded with three proposals, which he desired to submit to the Student Personnel Committee (SPC) of the Drake University Senate. They included:

1. Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity be suspended indefinitely as a student organization at Drake University. While the national

organization will not be asked to withdraw the charter, the fraternity will cease to exist as an active organization during the period of suspension, except insofar as alumni contact may be approved for the purpose of reorganization.

2. The chapter house will be vacated and closed to the members by December 1, 1962 or until a housemother, with the responsibilities similar to those of a dormitory head resident, and adult representative of the alumni national organization are in residence for supervisory purposes. If the chapter house is open, it will be operated as an approved rooming house under authority of an alumni control board with no program and no fraternity identification.
3. Sigma Phi Epsilon may be reinstated at some future date upon the recommendation of the Dean of Students and with the approval of the Student Personnel Committee of the University Senate.

On the same afternoon, the SPC met "to review all past actions of Sigma Phi Epsilon and to consider recommendations by Dean Bloland regarding the fraternity."²² Sigma Phi Epsilon was represented by Axthelm and Kirkpatrick; Rodney Rhoads '57, and Anthony Critelli '52, of the alumni house corporation; and four undergraduate officers.

Bloland stated that he had considered removing the fraternity from campus completely, but conceded the unconscionable burden which would be placed on the alumni's housing investment. Instead Bloland made a motion that his three-point plan previously presented to Axthelm and Kirkpatrick be accepted. Bloland explained that the motion "would make it possible for the alumni to remove the boys causing the trouble and build a new group."²³ One committee member felt that the motion was "too severe" and offered an amendment that "the fraternity be placed on social probation for one year and suspended from entertainment programs, Drake Relays, Bulldog Tales, Sweetheart Sing, and rush."²⁴ The amendment failed, and instead Bloland's motion was passed by a vote of 13 to two. On the next day, Professor Eddie Easley, chairman of the SPC, notified Iowa Delta of the action that had been taken, that it had been done so "with deep regret," and that the committee looked "forward to the day that Sigma Phi Epsilon can become a responsible and contributing member of the fraternity system at Drake University."²⁵

On November 20, 1962, *The Drake Times-Delphic* bore a banner headline announcing

that the SPC had decided to "Suspend Sigma Phi Epsilon Indefinitely." In the right hand corner of the front page a box was printed with an inscription which read:

First in Scholarship.
Second in Sing.
First to leave campus.²⁶

Iowa Delta became ineligible to participate in athletic, scholastic, and other Greek competitions, and was suspended from the IFC. The chapter residence was reduced to a boarding house, with dining service extended exclusively to the 14 alumni-approved undergraduate residents. All chapter meetings were held with alumni supervision²⁷ and the Alumni Committee appointed officers to maintain order and to act as liaisons. Forrest Christensen, a 1949 graduate of the University of Nebraska and initiate of Sigma Phi Epsilon (Nebraska Alpha), became resident counselor, supplementing the supervision provided by Housemother Jean Williams. By February 1, 1963, Dean Bloland remarked that "some progress has been made in rehabilitating the chapter."²⁸ On February 5, 1963, Iowa Delta held its first meeting in four months, although all chapter offices continued to be occupied by alumni members until April 1. On February 26, 1963, *The Drake Times-Delphic* published an article entitled "Are the Sig Eps Coming Back?" which conceded that "the men of Sig Ep have realized and accepted full blame for the present situation, initiated definite plans, methods, and programs to attain the desired university image, organization, and utility of a fraternity." On April 24, 1963, J. A. McLaughlin '50, chairman of the Iowa Delta Chapter Alumni Advisory Council, contacted the SPC requesting that the university "permit the undergraduate group to function more normally as an organized fraternity body." Specifically, the fraternity sought permission to hold informal social functions and to recruit new members during the 1962 fall rush. At the April 30, 1963 meeting of the SPC, the requests were unanimously granted,²⁹ provided that Iowa Delta's social program be approved by the Office of the Dean of Students. In making the concessions, the committee noted that it was "favorably impressed with the progress made by the chapter under the guidance of the alumni council."³⁰

In the fall of 1963 Iowa Delta obtained 30 pledges, the third largest class among Drake fraternities, and "for all intended purpose," had a full social program.³¹ However, it was felt by the university's administration that the Alumni Advisory Council "was not func-

tioning,"³² and in the spring of 1964 Dean of Students Bloland notified Iowa Delta that

while considerable progress seemed to have been made, we have recently observed what seems to be a regression towards old patterns of behavior and attitude. Certainly the chapter is not making the kind of progress which would justify a recommendation that the suspension be lifted. It is our feeling that the chapter must completely rehabilitate itself or leave the campus. It cannot continue indefinitely in its present status.³³

On April 2, 1964, the chapter was stripped of all privileges extended to it 12 months earlier. On April 10 representatives from Iowa Delta met with Dean Bloland and recently appointed Dean of Men Arthur Casebeer to reassess the chapter's progress toward reinstatement. Eight criteria covering conduct, scholarship, finances, and community relations were drawn up as guidelines for ascertaining improvement.³⁴ Before the conclusion of the semester, Iowa Delta was extended limited social privileges and participation in intramurals.

In the fall of 1964 Iowa Delta was presented with all three scholarship trophies—active, pledge and improvement—for its spring 1964 grades. This achievement was followed by the chapter receiving Sigma Phi Epsilon's national scholarship award. In mid-September, the national office of Sigma Phi Epsilon felt that the chapter was ready for reinstatement, and the deans of men and students concurred.³⁵ On October 13, 1964, the SPC lifted the suspension, effective October 19. Iowa Delta responded by serenading Drake's sororities and by burning the shroud which had covered the chapter's badge-shaped outdoor sign for nearly two years.³⁶

Strengthened by the achievement of goals which had required its membership to work closely together, Iowa Delta emerged from the suspension with 58 men. The chapter continued to be an able competitor in terms of membership recruitment, athletics, and scholarship, yet failed to reach the "winning edge" which it had previously enjoyed.

The Iowa Delta chapter house was struck by the worst fraternity fire in Drake's history on November 6, 1971. Seven hundred pounds of shredded newspaper had been spread two-feet deep throughout the chapter house for a "cave party"; on the following morning, as pledges burned the paper in a trash can behind the house, a hot ash blew into the television room.³⁷ Although no one was injured, the dining and living room facilities of the chapter house were completely gutted, and the remainder of the house expe-

rienced substantial smoke damage. Originally the loss was estimated at \$10,000-\$15,000; the chapter later received an insurance settlement of \$22,000.³⁸ In spite of the extent of the damage, residents were able to move back into the house after one week. The dining room and kitchen were extensively remodeled, and an additional room was added to the rear of the chapter house.

During the last decade, Iowa Delta has faced difficulty in defining a steady course. Besieged by problems common to many Drake fraternities during and immediately following the Viet Nam era, the chapter has come to utilize the resources of its alumni. Among those who have assisted Iowa Delta in its move toward stabilization and efficiency of operations is Chapter Advisor Dr. Maurice LaBelle, professor of English at Drake University. Although presently the chapter's membership numbers in the 30s and repeated disruptive conduct has strained Iowa Delta's relationship with its fellow Greeks and the university, significant internal reorganization including more careful

membership selection could signal a turnaround in the chapter's situation.³⁹

A liaison, the Little Sisters of the Golden Hearts, was recognized by Drake University in the spring of 1971. The group was originally conceived of in 1966, but was not organized until five years later.⁴⁰ During the 1980s a newsletter entitled *The Jug Report* has been distributed to alumni.

Perhaps Iowa Delta's most renowned alumnus is Fred Turner '55, chief executive officer of the McDonalds restaurant chain. Raymond King and Billy Grother became field secretaries for the national fraternity upon their graduation from Drake University in 1956. The alumni of Iowa Delta have been particularly faithful to their *alma mater*; initiates presently included on the Drake University Board of Trustees are Ron Olson '63, Rodney Rhoads, and Fred Turner. Alumni have also played an active role on the Drake National Alumni Board.

During its 35 years at Drake University, Sigma Phi Epsilon has initiated 838 men.

¹1917-18; 1934-37; 1943-46.

²In Chi Delta's 1948 petition to Sigma Phi Epsilon, the Drake fraternity claimed that it had evolved from the Dirk's Club, founded "some eighteen years after the establishment of Drake University." How these latter-day Chi Deltas arrived at a founding date of 1899 is uncertain, but in all probability such a calculation was erroneous. A 1914 history published by the fraternity states its founding date as January 30, 1907, and makes no reference to any activity prior to this date. All other sources seem to indicate the name "Dirk's Club" was not adopted until the university prohibited the use of Greek letters by campus organizations in 1909.

³Interestingly enough, the founders of Sigma Phi Epsilon encountered a similar difficulty. Founded in 1901 as Sigma Phi, the fraternity's name was later changed when it was learned that a national fraternity utilizing the same letters had existed since 1827.

⁴The latter name was perhaps a reflection on Chi Delta's badge, which was composed of 18 pearls forming an X over a triangle of seven emeralds.

⁵Arthur Priest, executive director, Phi Delta Theta, to Emery Ruby, July 22, 1931.

⁶"The Drake Times-Delphic," September 19, 1939.

⁷"The Drake Times-Delphic," March 8, 1946.

⁸Charles R. Burton, field secretary, to Dale Porter, president, Chi Delta, July 2, 1947.

⁹In an April 25, 1949 memo to the Supreme Council of Phi Kappa Alpha, Field Secretary

John Horton stated, "The exact reason for Herb's [Miller] objections I do not know, but it is my personal opinion that we missed getting a good group at the time." The memo also disclosed that Drake President Henry Harmon—an initiate of Phi Kappa Alpha—"felt let down" that "the decision to pass up [Chi Delta] was never conveyed" to him.

¹⁰Including Beta Theta Pi, Delta Tau Delta, Delta Upsilon, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Kappa Psi, Sigma Chi, and Sigma Phi Epsilon. Chi Delta's contact with Sigma Phi Epsilon preceded the national fraternity's receipt of correspondence from Drake.

¹¹Undergraduates, as shown on Iowa Delta's charter, included William E. Benskin, Howard J. Bergman, Gordon Boss, James O. Boyt, Ken L. Brown, Robert F. Brown, Ray L. Bynum, William A. Callman Jr., Mac Churchill, Tom Cosgrove, Donn Davies, Jerone Donovan, Elton Elston, Ed Engstrom, Donald W. Fry, James G. Kean, John J. McGivern, John McKeon, James A. McLaughlin, Gene Ollrich, George H. Owens, Donald E. Perkins, Ralph Pruess, John C. Redden, Norman Rothenberg, Jack Runyan, Douglas Savage, Dale Saylor, Bernard G. Shavlis, Alan L. Spiers (president), and Charles Stroup.

Alumni initiated were Ralph Amend, Albert Cummings, Ray H. Darling, J. Robert Miller, Paul Morrison, W. W. Sackett, Leslie M. Shaw, James O. Swick, and Glen G. Wallace. It is not known why so few of Chi Delta's 200-plus alumni took part in the installation.

¹²"The Sigma Phi Epsilon Journal," April 1950, p. 350.

¹³"The Sigma Phi Epsilon Journal," February 1954, p. 55.

¹⁴Harry D. Kurtz, to Carroll Galbreath, dean of students, March 12, 1960.

¹⁵Darrell D. Brittson, director of chapter services, to Donald H. Burnett, assistant dean of students, July 3, 1962.

Additionally, both Drake and Sigma Phi Epsilon were troubled that 12 of the 43 university discipline cases during the 1962-63 school year involved members of Iowa Delta.

¹⁶"The Des Moines Tribune," February 13, 1962.

¹⁷Id.

¹⁸The 37th Street property was sold for \$23,500. The cost of the residence at 1215 34th Street was approximately \$43,000, with an additional \$3,800 spent on remodeling.

¹⁹A number of inconsistent reports were given explaining the activities of that morning, including an assertion that an initiate who resided in the chapter house was diabetic and urgently needed to gain access to his room for insulin.

The material included in this section was taken from a memo to the files assembled by Dean of Students Paul Boland and dated November 14, 1962.

²⁰"The Des Moines Tribune," November 10, 1962.

²¹Donald Burnett, memo to the files, November 15, 1962.

²²Minutes, Student Personnel Committee, November 15, 1962.

²³Id.

²⁴Id.

²⁵A memo to the files of Don Burnett, dated November 20, 1962, stated that "the alumni's immediate reaction was to fight the university's action, but this attitude soon changed after a period of discussion."

²⁶It was without question that Iowa Delta was one of Drake's most involved and accomplished fraternities. As stated in the February 26, 1963 "Drake Times Delphic":—"In the years reviewed for its suspension Sigma Phi Epsilon has had members in more committee chairmanships, men serving on more campus committees and has numbered more individual leaders in campus organizations than most fraternal groups at Drake, all the while taking part in all-Univer-

sity sponsored functions. In this period of time Sig Ep, either as a whole or individually, has won more awards than any two organizations on campus. Yet another fact to remember is that Sig Ep introduced the 'All-Greek Function' to better cement the ties of the system and so lessen petty jealousies that have dominated in the past."

²⁷Paul Boland, memo to the files, November 21, 1962.

²⁸Minutes, Student Personnel Committee, February 26, 1963.

²⁹However, the number of pledges which Iowa Delta was permitted in the fall 1963 was restricted to 75 percent of its active membership.

³⁰Eddie Easely, to J. A. McLaughlin, May 7, 1963.

³¹Arthur Casebeer, assistant dean of students, to Edward Axthlm, October 31, 1963.

³²Arthur Casebeer, memo to the files, October 31, 1963, restating the comments of William Bennett, field secretary, Sigma Phi Epsilon.

³³Paul Boland, to David Lane, president, Iowa Delta, April 2, 1964.

³⁴Paul Boland, to David Lane, April 13, 1964.

³⁵Minutes, Iowa Delta, September 28, 1964.

³⁶"The Des Moines Tribune," October 15, 1964.

³⁷The cleanup was in violation of Des Moines open burning law. Briefly, it appeared that the city would file charges against Iowa Delta, but the chapter's president was correct when he stated, "I figure the city will realize we've paid enough without charging us." "The Drake Times-Delphic," November 12, 1971.

³⁸Kenneth Vegors, administrative assistant to the vice president of student life, to Dr. Stephen Schodde, coordinator of student development services, mid-year report, April 21, 1972.

³⁹The November 1983 issue of "The Sigma Phi Epsilon Journal" noted that "the efforts of a resident counselor [Wayne Harper, Maine Alpha, Maine], alumni, undergraduates and the headquarters staff resulted in a considerable improvement in chapter operations at Drake University. Drake Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Donald Adams said recently the Sig Ep chapter there was the most improved chapter on campus."

⁴⁰Minutes, Iowa Delta, May 2, 1966.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Dr. Maurice LaBelle, Paul Morrison '39, Rodney Rhoads, and George Rutledge.

Square and Compass

Founded May 12, 1917, at Washington and Lee University. Total charter grants: 57, a small percentage of which remained active at the time of the fraternity's 1952 merger with Sigma Mu Sigma.¹ Total initiates: 4,500. Colors: navy blue and silver grey.

Ashlar founded February 1925; installed as the 55th or Drake square (chapter) of Square and Compass Fraternity April 30, 1926. Declared non-operating 1930.

SQUARE AND COMPASS was one of the few² social fraternities founded exclusively for members of the Masonic Order.³ Although initiation into Masonry at the time of its establishment required that a candidate had attained the age of 21, Square and Compass grew rapidly following World War I. Many veterans who had been forced to postpone their education entered the Masonic Order prior to enrolling in college. Such was the situation at Drake University in the 1920s.

The history of social organizations for Drake Masons actually predates the establishment of Square and Compass. Records show a Masonic Club functioning in 1908, although it is likely that such a society first appeared much earlier. In February 1912 the Masonic Club—which on occasion, oddly enough, went by the name of Compass and Square—became the Gauge and Gavel Club,⁴ a local fraternity complete with its own flower (the carnation) and colors (green and white). During its two-year existence Gauge and Gavel operated a residence at 1125 25th Street, and could claim a number of influential faculty as members.

Over a decade later the idea of a Masonic fraternity was resurrected. In February 1925 Arnold Hansen '26, Gail Fry '27, Glenn Garten '26, Harold Moeckly '27, Dale Ambelang '26, and W. O. "Bill" Fuller '25, with the assistance of Drake alumnus Issac "Ike" Armstrong '23, organized Ashlar.⁵ From its inception, the membership of Ashlar intended to affiliate with Square and Compass. By the close of 1925 Ashlar had grown to 25 men, and a petition was submitted to the national organization. Ashlar learned of its acceptance by Square and Compass on January 12, 1926.

Installation of Ashlar as the Drake square of Square and Compass took place on April 30, 1926.⁶ That afternoon, the charter was presented to the chapter at the Masonic Temple, 1011 Locust Avenue.⁷ In the evening, an installation banquet was held in the Harris Emery Tea Room, featuring a keynote address by Howard Funk, national president of Square and Compass. Soon after its installation, the Drake square announced plans for the construction of a chapter house through the aid of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Iowa. The assistance never materialized, and the chapter was forced to settle for a modest home located at 2932 Brattleboro Avenue. The Drake square participated in intramural sports and scholastic competition, although it did not join the Interfraternity Council.

By 1928, the fraternity was encountering great difficulty in the recruitment of new members.⁸ Veterans of the First World War were no longer enrolled in the university, and Drake's study body was becoming increasingly younger.

A member, present at the Drake square's demise, observed that the fraternity became

very limited as to membership, and therefore was unable to get enough men to join and live in the house. In order to join you had to be a Mason and you could not join until you had the Masonic work, and therefore you were not eligible. That meant that most would be a junior or senior or post-graduate. So prospects very very, very limited. Expenses began to be more than income so I believe in the summer of 1928 it was decided to close the house and soon after the fraternity completely disbanded.⁹

Without a chapter house from which to operate, the Drake square of Square and Com-

pass had completely vanished from the campus by the fall of 1930.

During its four years at Drake University, Square and Compass initiated 40 men.

¹Square and Compass merged into Sigma Mu Sigma on August 3, 1952. Sigma Mu Sigma was originally organized as a social fraternity; in 1934, a majority of its chapters were absorbed by Tau Kappa Epsilon. The first chapter, located at Tri-State University, was revived as a general recognition fraternity in 1940, which soon became national in scope. Today, few chapters of the fraternity survive.

²The most noteworthy example is Acacia, founded in 1904. Unlike Acacia, Square and Compass accepted into membership the initiates of other social fraternities. Acacia dropped its membership prerequisite of Masonic affiliation in 1933. As of 1983, there were 36 chapters of the fraternity.

³The Masonic Order, or Freemasonry, is the world's largest secret society. The non-religious fraternal order evolved from the guilds of stone masons and builders which developed during the middle ages; modern Masonry draws its traditions from English "lodges" or chapters of the Eighteenth Century.

⁴The name of the fraternity was taken from two of the many symbols of "the operative mason's art" which hold ritual significance within Masonry.

⁵The fraternity's name was also taken from Masonic lore. An ashlar was a stone used in the construction of King Solomon's Temple in ancient Jerusalem.

⁶The Drake square became the second chapter of Square and Compass in Des Moines. The first had been installed at Des Moines University in 1923. A third Des Moines chapter came into being in 1928 when a charter was granted to a Masonic group at Still College of Osteopathy,

now the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences.

⁷Charter members of the Drake square were Arnold Hanson (president), Glenn Garten, Harold Moeckly, Roy Pierce, Wayne Carver, Gail Fry, Scott Wilson, William Cessna, Floyd Ullem, Hershel Jopling, Lyle Campbell, Herbert Bohlman, C.O. Denny, S. J. A. Wilfaut, Charles E. Long, R. V. Stephenson, Parker York, Clifford Cecil, Francis Hall, Leonard Albrecht, Henry Garrett, Leslie Olson, Al Levich, Dale Ambelang, and Loren Gans. Interestingly, Arnold Hanson was initiated into Square and Compass at Des Moines University before transferring to Drake. Herbert Bohlman became dean of the Drake College of Business in 1954, and was long-time advisor to the campus chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi.

Alumni initiates included W.O. "Bill" Fuller, John Musmaker, and Carl Anderson. Fuller and Anderson later became charter members of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Honorary memberships were conferred upon the Rev. E. G. Williams, H. Garton, and Judge Hubert Utterback. Utterback had been a member of Gauge and Gavel while a professor of Law at Drake University.

⁸Some of the problem was attributable to Square and Compass' unique system of pledging. Unlike a "bidding" system utilized by other social fraternities, Square and Compass required a prospective member to "petition" the chapter. This was consistent with the practices of the Masonic order.

⁹Dean F. Rouse, to Lynden Lyman, August 1, 1982.

Tau Kappa Epsilon

Founded January 10, 1899, at Illinois Wesleyan University. Total charter grants: 374, of which 275 remain active. Total initiates: 148, 365. Colors: cherry and gray; flower: the red carnation.

The Zuma Club founded October 8, 1921; reorganized as Delta Zeta Chi December 19, 1921; installed as the 38th or **Alpha Xi** chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity December 18, 1932.

TAU KAPPA EPSILON, having granted nearly 375 charters to date, most likely would have found its way to Drake University sooner or later. As it was, a chapter was installed on campus rather early in the history of the originally Midwestern-based national fraternity, the Drake local Delta Zeta Chi becoming Tau Kappa Epsilon's 38th or Alpha Xi chapter.

Delta Zeta Chi has the distinction of being the only Drake local fraternity founded as a literary society. The Zuma Club was organized on October 8, 1921, but soon interest in the classics gave way to social pursuits. Through contributions and assessments, a residence at 3318 Forest Avenue was leased and furnished for 20 men, and on December 19, 1921, the Zuma Club became the local fraternity Delta Zeta Chi.¹ Its constitution proclaimed that

Delta Zeta Chi is dedicated to the promotion of scholarship, and building of character, and the achieving of a fellowship large enough to extend beyond the confines of the organization with a friendliness that will commend it and endear it to everyone with whom it comes in contact.

For several years, the group was less than visible on campus, as the limelight was being cast on the older Drake locals which were busying themselves petitioning national organizations. In 1923, as Delta Zeta Chi was perfecting its organizational structure, a nationalization chairman was appointed. Initially, the fraternity was interested in Delta Tau Delta, due to the encouragement of "Dutch" Worrell, an initiate of the national fraternity whose jewelry business included the manufacturing of Delta Zeta Chi's

badge. Apparently the national organization was disinterested in Drake, as the local group never filed a formal petition. In the fall of 1923 Delta Zeta Chi relocated to a residence at 2915 Brattleboro Avenue. Although less attractive than the original fraternity house, the Brattleboro residence better accommodated the growing membership of the organization, which had reached 25 men.

In the spring of 1926, when the fraternity's membership had grown to 40 and with it an increase in campus, scholastic, and athletic achievement, Delta Zeta Chi took the logical step of petitioning for membership on the Men's Pan Hellenic Council. However, Gamma Sigma Kappa, Tau Psi, and Phi Gamma Lambda—all of which had unsuccessfully petitioned national groups, and were perhaps fearful of further competition—blocked the admittance of Drake's youngest fraternity. Angered, Alpha Tau Omega resigned from the group, and attempted to organize a rival governing body. When it appeared that Alpha Tau Omega and Delta Zeta Chi, who along with Chi Delta and Drake's two national legal fraternities were about to form an Interfraternity Council, the Pan Hellenic Council immediately extended membership to Delta Zeta Chi. However, in a display of extreme self-confidence, the president of Delta Zeta Chi told a *Delphic* reporter, "we won't join; it would lower our social standing." Over the summer of 1926 the Men's Pan Hellenic all but dissolved, and was replaced with the Interfraternity Council (IFC) in the fall. Delta Zeta Chi was among the seven charter members of the organization.

Delta Zeta Chi was a fraternity rich in traditions. Its newsletter, *The Zumarang* was

published consistently from the time of the origin of the group until its affiliation with Tau Kappa Epsilon. The fraternity's flower was the milady rose; its colors were purple and black. Delta Zeta Chi's ritual borrowed liberally from Masonry and placed emphasis upon the fraternity's two secret symbols, the arrow and the star. The secret meaning of the fraternity's name represented its three ideals: scholarship, brotherhood, and character.

While the members of Delta Zeta Chi enjoyed an active social life, academic achievement was of primary importance; the group averaged the highest grades over a period of eight years (1924-32) among all Drake fraternities. Three members were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, including Robert Patrick '26, who in 1927 became Drake University's third Rhodes Scholar.

In the spring of 1927 Delta Zeta Chi felt that it should relocate to a permanent residence. With \$10,000, it purchased the Dr. E. G. Scruby home, which allowed room for the construction of a third floor sleeping dorm. The acquisition of the 1103 22nd Street property was possible largely through alumni contributions and notes. "With organization growing in activity and prestige, and permanently located in its own home, increased emphasis was placed on affiliation with the strongest of national fraternities."² Delta Zeta Chi's minutes of November 12, 1928 recorded that the group decided to study and consider Tau Kappa Epsilon. Sometime during the same year Tau Kappa Epsilon first contacted Drake's Dean of Men Raymond Davies, expressing its interest in the university for purposes of extension. Yet it was not until March 18, 1930 that Albert Robertson '32, secretary of Delta Zeta Chi's Nationalization Committee, contacted Harrold "Tex" Flint (Alpha, Illinois Wesleyan), executive secretary of Tau Kappa Epsilon. The national office responded immediately. Less than two months later—on May 3 and 4—Tau Kappa Epsilon's National Vice President Eugene C. Beach (Iota, Eureka) made a primary inspection of Delta Zeta Chi, assisted by alumni Russell A. Mericle (Omicron, Ohio State) and Robert A. Gauley (Lambda, Wisconsin.) The inspection went extraordinarily well for the Drake organization, with the concensus of the national officials being that

A critical and careful study of individual personal interviews reveal men of sterling character, men who are outstanding leaders in all phases of university life, men who are good students, and men who I believe would

reflect credit to the national organization any fraternity.³

Delta Zeta Chi was so preoccupied with giving a good impression that even before inspection report was compiled the fraternity depledged four of its al explaining that "the officers and active members felt that the four did not quite come to our standards."⁴ However, as impr Tau Kappa Epsilon might have been not yet prepared to grant a charter to Zeta Chi. On August 12, 1930, Tau Epsilon's National President Milt Olander (Gamma, Illinois) forwarded to Zeta Chi a "Certification of Objective accomplishment of which was required condition precedent to the grant of a sation of petition." The objectives in the building of a \$1500 nationalization collection of all accounts receivable of the fraternity, and the retirement of the Interfraternity Scholarship Cup by obtaining the highest academic average among fraternities for three consecutive semesters. On October 24, Delta Zeta Chi responded was prepared to undertake the accomplishment of the prerequisites to petitioning.

For the next 18 months Delta Zeta directed all of its energies toward meeting the objectives as outlined by the national fraternity. Alumni—most notably W. O. Fuller '25—were instrumental in the building of the nationalization fund and the collection of delinquent accounts. New house rules which included a prohibition against drinking functions on school nights were adopted for further scholarship. The desire to gain possession of the scholarship cup was so great that on August 22, 1931, Delta Zeta Chi contacted Tau Kappa Epsilon, stating that

To show some of the sacrifice the boys make, we had two actives who were losing grades and endangered our average. I resigned from the organization in order to protect the group.

The objectives were achieved in the spring of 1932, and on April 28 Eugene Beach had become national president of Tau Epsilon, personally delivered the dis petition to petition to Delta Zeta Chi. The compensation detailed the submission of petitions to the national organization, a plan which the Drake local immediately work on. Because two active alumni—I Mathis '26, and Tom Miller '26,—worked the advertising department of Meredith Publishing, an impressive petition was assembled with 100 copies forwarded to the national office of the Tau Kappa Epsilon on May

1932. The submission of the petition was followed by a final inspection of Delta Zeta Chi, conducted on June 4, 1932 by Russell D. Miller and Earl Shull (both Epsilon, Iowa State). On November 9, 1932 Delta Zeta Chi received a telegram stating that

It is both a privilege and a great pleasure to inform you that on this date, Tau Kappa Epsilon has granted its thirty-eighth or Alpha Xi undergraduate chapter to Delta Zeta Chi. We know your addition will enhance our purposefulness and power.

When Delta Zeta Chi was installed as Alpha Xi chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon on the weekend of December 17, 1932, things did not go quite as smoothly as all those involved had desired. Not only was there a blizzard with sub-zero temperatures, but Delta Zeta Chi's president was forced to return to his home in Tonawanda, New York, to be at the bedside of his dying father. Yet, through the direction of past National President Miles Gray (Iota), Executive Secretary Harrold "Tex" Flint, and National Historian Leland F. Leland (Theta, Minnesota), all necessary instruction and ceremonies were completed. Assisting were regional officials George M. Ottson (Zeta, Coe) and Judd Wolfram (Lambda). Friday, December 16 con-

sisted of seminars on chapter management; on Saturday a ritual demonstration was conducted in the administration lounge of Old Main, and was followed by an installation banquet held at the Hotel Savery. Seventeen speakers were featured at the banquet, including Drake President D. W. Morehouse and Dean of Men Raymond Davies. Immediately following the banquet, the Des Moines Graduate Chapter was chartered, marking the first time in the history of Tau Kappa Epsilon that an undergraduate and alumni chapter were installed in the same city on the same day. A dance was then held in the Florentine Room of the Savery, which was broadcast over Radio Station KSO. The charter was presented to the chapter on Sunday afternoon.

Among those initiated⁵ into Tau Kappa Epsilon were two faculty members. Fred L. Turby served as university auditor, and was instrumental in shaping Delta Zeta Chi from its inception. John H. Hutchinson, a professor in the College of Education (and later its dean, as well as the first dean of the College of Continuing Education) served as Delta Zeta Chi's advisor.⁶ Both men remained active in the fraternity until World War II.

The goal of national affiliation having been met, Tau Kappa Epsilon encountered diffi-



Tau Kappa Epsilon

Alpha Xi's charter members share a relaxed moment in the spring of 1933.

culties in defining a new course. The active membership of Delta Zeta Chi had dropped to 25 men at the time of petitioning, and numbered only 17 at the time of installation. Following the chartering, membership slipped even lower. However, the chapter continued to excel academically, as well as being involved in campus leadership positions; Alpha Xi was the recipient of the first (and only) Times-Delphic Achievement Award for its activities during the 1933-34 school year.

Drake Greeks had one by one migrated away from the 22nd Street and Drake Park Avenue area, and in 1934 Tau Kappa Epsilon became the last group to relocate. A rental property, made available due to the demise of Alpha Chi Omega, was secured at 1320 34th Street. The move made the chapter more visible, although little increase in chapter strength occurred. Membership did not exceed 25 men, and the chapter barely held on due to financial pressures brought on by the Depression. In 1936 Alpha Xi lost the lease on the 34th Street property and moved to a modest residence located at 1070 29th Street. During this period, Ronald Reagan, an initiate of Tau Kappa Epsilon (Iota), and at the time a local radio personality, was a frequent visitor at the chapter house. However, his attempt to assist the fraternity's rush efforts met with minimal success.

Alpha Xi received the IFC scholarship cup for five consecutive semesters, from fall 1935 through fall 1937. This achievement culminated in the chapter being presented with the national scholarship improvement trophy by National President Clarence Smith (Beta, Millikin) during a banquet at the Hotel Commodore in February 1938.

In the fall of 1937 less than a dozen of Alpha Xi's active members returned to the Drake campus. At the beginning of the semester, the chapter operated without housing until it was learned that the Lochroft Mansion, located at 1255 30th Street—which Alpha Tau Omega had previously vacated due to its inability to make monthly payments—was available. Lochroft exceeded the needs of the modest membership; in addition to having 25 individual rooms and a fourth-floor sleep dorm, the residence contained a ballroom and reflecting pond. Although the chapter all but lacked a treasury, the first month's rent was borrowed from an initiate's father, and the task of refurbishing the house began. Alumni loaned enough furniture to fill the massive residence, and new cars were rented to be placed in front of the mansion during rush activities. Suitably impressed



Tau Kappa Epsilon

The cover of the October 1938 issue of Tau Kappa Epsilon's national journal *The Teke* featured members of the Drake chapter raising the fraternity flag on the front lawn of their residence.

with the surroundings, 57 men pledged Tau Kappa Epsilon that semester. Nearly half were soon depledged; their temporary affiliation and payment of dues, however, served as a means of building up the chapter's financial resources.

The years of 1938-41 perhaps marked the golden period of Alpha Xi chapter.⁷ Members were involved in every phase of campus activity, with the chapter equal in size to its competitors. The tremendously large and diversified pledge class of 1937 was, for four years, Tau Kappa Epsilon, and when this group graduated their loss was deeply felt. Lochroft could not be filled and membership decreased further as a result of World War II. By 1942 the chapter was in a state of disrepair. On February 1 of that year, an emergency meeting was held by alumni who observed that

The condition of the chapter is such that if we wanted to take bankruptcy today, we would have no trouble . . . the active chapter is not enough interested, but we are not here to fix blame for the situation, but rather try to determine whether or not it is worthwhile to keep the chapter on campus.⁸

Ultimately, the conflict overseas decided the issue, and the national office of Tau Kappa Epsilon officially declared Alpha Xi

inactive in June 1942. Nearly 100 percent of the chapter and its alumni were involved in the war effort, including five members who lost their lives:

Lieutenant Don Christians '40
Private George Foy '44
Lieutenant Murro McCracken '40
Sergeant Howard Plagge '39
Lieutenant Edward Rice '45

The re-establishment of Alpha Xi occurred on October 29, 1944, when 17 Drake men were formally pledged to Tau Kappa Epsilon. The ceremony was actually a publicity stunt attended by Tau Kappa Epsilon's National Historian Leland F. Leland to promote the return of Alpha Xi to campus. Prior to the festivities, which were held at Lowry's Tea Room, a single member—Malcomb Giles '47—had returned from the service and pledged four men. The four were inducted in the basement of an alumnus, Tom Dusenberry '34, who was storing the inactive chapter's ritual equipment. Alpha Xi grew slowly and rented a room at 2307 University Avenue located in an area near the university known as Dogtown. For a short time business was conducted in the long, unadorned building; meetings were later held in the Blue Willow Cafe, 2809 Forest Avenue.

In November 1944 Drake had captured the NCAA cross country title. Captain of the team and recipient of individual honors was Fred Feiler '47, an Alpha Xi pledge who was later initiated by the chapter following World War II. The team repeated as national champions again in 1945 and 1946, both times under the leadership of Feiler.

Tau Kappa Epsilon was at an extreme disadvantage in its membership recruitment efforts during the 1945-46 school year due to its inability to acquire a chapter house. On May 15, 1946 the chapter signed a lease with the university for a residence located at 1536 30th Street; Drake was still repairing the property when rush began four months later. Recruitment netted 45 men during the 1946 fall semester; this number was duplicated in the fall of 1947. By spring 1949 Alpha Xi had proven to be a most successful chapter; the scholarship trophy was again retired, the Voltmer Trophy for intramural achievement had been won for two consecutive years, and membership stood at 47 initiates and 42 pledges. In view of these accomplishments, Alpha Xi was named Top Teke Chapter by the national fraternity, representing outstanding chapter efficiency for the 1947-48 school year.

In the fall of 1947 Jim Hulse '41, an Alpha

Xi alumnus and Iowa manager for Decca Records, contacted renowned band leader Lawrence Welk and extended to him an invitation to join the fraternity. On October 11, Welk was initiated into Alpha Xi chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon. Both Tau Kappa Epsilon and the Drake Greek system have repeatedly cited Welk as an accomplished fraternity alumnus, although he in fact never attended Drake University.

Following the fraternity's recognition as the most accomplished chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon, Alpha Xi degressed considerably; scholastic achievement became less impressive, athletic involvement was no longer a priority, and membership had dropped to 36 men by 1951. In 1953 rent for the antiquated 30th Street residence was increased and Alpha Xi began to investigate the possibility of obtaining a new chapter house. When Drake notified the fraternity of the availability of two university properties—Grey Cottage and South Hall—Alpha Xi vacated its residence in anticipation of leasing one of them. However, shortly thereafter the university reached the determination that the two buildings should be demolished to make way for much needed parking space, and Tau Kappa Epsilon was left without a home. During the 1953-54 school year, Alpha Xi conducted its chapter meetings at Drake's student union, "the Kennel," located in Jewett Dormitory, and was again forced to recruit new members without the benefit of a residence.

In September 1953 Tau Kappa Epsilon held its national convention at Des Moines' Hotel Savery, representing the first and only time a Drake University fraternity or sorority has hosted such an event.

During the summer of 1954, Alpha Xi's alumni, with the assistance of loan from the national fraternity, acquired a residence for the chapter's use located at 3807 University Avenue. Considerable attention was drawn to Alpha Xi when it held a social event it called the "Communist Party" in December 1954. Traffic piled up in front of the chapter house, and police were called by angry neighbors. *The Des Moines Register* featured a story on the affair which included a photograph of Russian flags hanging from the front of the chapter house. If such daring in the midst of the Cold War wasn't enough, the chapter later ignored a university prohibition against its "French Underground Party." Held in the dark, damp basements of Des Moines' most aged hotels, the party became an annual event for Alpha Xi throughout the 1950s.

Tau Kappa Epsilon



In sharp contrast to the decade which followed, the Drake chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon enjoyed success and popularity throughout the 1960s.

With strong showings in Greek and campus competitions and a steady increase in membership, including a 38-men pledge class in the fall of 1960, Alpha Xi quickly regained respectability. Its image was undoubtedly damaged somewhat when in the fall of 1961 the chapter was placed on social and general probation for a period of one year, as well as fined \$200, for serving beer at a rush function. The chapter was also found to have distributed rush literature which "insulted another Greek house" and was fined \$15 for each pledge obtained during the 1961 fall rush.⁹ Added to these sanctions was a year-long probation brought by the national office of Tau Kappa Epsilon. During the fall of 1963, following the expiration of the general probation, Alpha Xi was placed on scholastic probation for one semester, for failure to maintain a chapter grade point not less than one-tenth of a point below the all men's average.¹⁰

Alpha Xi withstood the disciplinary measures and continued to grow. In the spring of 1964, the fraternity won the Sweetheart Sing competition for a third consecutive year. The chapter house on University Avenue became

obsolete, and plans were drawn up for a \$100,000 residence. However, in the fall of 1964 a boiler crack necessitated immediate action, and Alpha Xi instead traded its residence for a property owned by Iowa Re located at 1260 34th Street.¹¹ Eighteen of the fraternity's 75 members moved into the new and present residence that winter, and Alpha Xi continued as one of the most outstanding chapters on campus throughout the 1960s.

By the spring of 1970 the character of Alpha Xi's membership had drastically changed. The national office of Tau Kappa Epsilon investigated the situation at Drake and determined that there was a lack of respectability and a possible drug abuse problem within the chapter. A split developed, and membership went from 60 to 30 members practically overnight. Over the course of the several years, membership continued to decline until the chapter ceased to be a fraternity competitor, and instead focused on its own survival. Alpha Xi came close to becoming inactive in the spring of 1975 when a notice of forfeiture on the chapter house mortgage was served by William Wisdom '39, an Alpha Xi alum and national president of Tau Kappa Epsilon.



Alpha Xi alumnus William H. Wisdom served as national president of Tau Kappa Epsilon from 1975-77.

Epsilon, delivered the chapter by securing a \$3,500 loan from the national organization. In the fall of 1975, Alpha Xi concentrated its efforts on enlarging its membership of 13 men. One by one affiliates were found until the chapter grew to 25 men. Additional stability was achieved when the final mortgage payment on the chapter house was made in December 1979. In the Summer of 1980 Alpha Xi was named the most improved chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon. Since that time the chapter has continued to make progress, although it has repeatedly encountered difficulty in affiliating adequate numbers of men. In the fall of 1982 John Paulson (Mu, Carroll), director of chapter revitalization for Tau Kappa Epsilon, made a prolonged visit to the chapter. Paulson

concentrated his efforts on membership recruitment, which have been followed by some growth in the membership in Alpha Xi.

Alpha Xi chapter has received the following awards from the national fraternity:

Top Teke Chapter	1948
Most Improved Chapter	1980
Outstanding Scholarship	1937, 1980
Public Relations Achievement	1980, 1981, 1982
Top Teke Undergraduate	
Dan Litchfield '80	1980
Lynden Lyman '81	1981

Chapter alumnus William H. Wisdom served Tau Kappa Epsilon as national president, 1975-77; vice-president, 1973-75; and secretary, 1966-73. In 1981, Wisdom was honored posthumously by being named the recipient of the Order of the Golden Eagle, the national organization's most honored alumni award. Charles Browning '41, acted as the first assistant executive director of the national fraternity, from 1938-41. *Sweetheart of TKE*, the official sweetheart song of the fraternity, was composed by Al Rockwell '50. In 1960, Jack J. Kessie '49, was named managing editor of *Playboy*, a position he held for 13 years.

A liaison, the Daughters of Diana, was recognized by Drake University in May 1966. *The Alpha-Xiron*, the chapter's alumni newsletter, has been published regularly since 1932. Often associated with the chapter is its large cast iron bell. The ornament was acquired during the 1960-61 school year.

During its 49 years at Drake University (taking into account the chapter's inactive period during World War II), Tau Kappa Epsilon has initiated 796 men.

¹The founding members of Delta Zeta Chi included Glee Claar, Carl Trowl, W. O. Fuller, John W. Teed, George Read, Elmer Osberg, Basil Kennedy, Graham Northrup, Paul A. Larson, Alexander Folts, Ward Arnold, Eugene Orr, Roy W. Wright, Wayne Booth, Ray C. Batchelor, James E. Kirby, Philip DuMont, and Clark Thornburg.

It is unclear which of these men organized the Zuma Club. Although one source lists ten founders, it is more likely that the group was the brainchild of Wright, Reed, Claar, Batchelor, Folts, Larson, Kirby, and Thornburg.

²"A Petition to Tau Kappa Epsilon from Delta Zeta Chi," May 13, 1932, p. 21.

³"Primary Inspection of Delta Zeta Chi Fraternity," comments of the Rev. Eugene Beach, p. 38 (undated).

⁴Ibid, p. 34.

⁵John Wulf (president), H. Kirby Shiffler, Charles Jones, George Henning, Chester Perry, William Merritt, Jennings Crawford, Judson Crawford, John DeBeer, Charles Dutton, Lesile Greve, Charles Horner, Maurice King, Kenneth Morris, Gerald Patterson, Edgar Storey, and Frank Thompson.

Alumni initiated included Carl Anderson, Ralph Collins, Joseph Flynn, Kenneth Hill, John Ekwall, Marshall Jones, Robert Lees, John Lohner, Louis Mathern, Harold Mathis, J. Thomas Miller, Milo Myers, Paul Olson, Robert Patrick, Lloyd Perry, Mark Toll, Dean Price, Henry Garrett, Roy Wright, DuWayne Hartzell, Clayton Thompson, Earl Holtz, Orval Mobley, Samuel Robertson, and W. O. Fuller. Fuller and Wright were among the original members of Delta Zeta Chi.

⁶Professor of History Olynthus B. Clark played an active role in the development of Delta Zeta Chi. A sudden illness in 1931 precluded his further teaching and involvement in the fraternity.

⁷Alpha Xi was the cover story of the October 1938 "The Teke."

⁸Minutes, Alpha Xi Board of Control, February 1, 1942, pps. 1-2.

⁹"The Des Moines Register," October 3, 1961.

¹⁰Mike Garneau, IFC Judicial Committee, to Ross Bishop, president, Tau Kappa Epsilon, January 16, 1963.

¹¹The house was the former residence of H. W. Harputee, who had been 34th Street's most ardent opponent to allowing fraternities and sororities to reside in the area.

Don Kaser, a Des Moines contractor and

national president of Tau Kappa Epsilon from 1959-63, refurbished the building's basement as a house-warming gift. Simultaneously, the chapter acquired the house immediately north at 1280 34th Street. Although this property was later sold, it was originally intended that it would be joined to the existing chapter house.

Research assistance for this section provided by F. E. Dykstra '30, Malcomb Giles, J. Dennis Montgomery '57, J. Thomas Miller, Dean Price '30, Lyle Simpson '60, and William Stiles '69. Special research assistance provided by John J. Cychol, Gary LaBranche, and Michael Moxley of the national office staff of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

This section is dedicated in memory of James H. Hulse.

Tau Psi

Founded April 17, 1907, at Drake University. Dissolved by Drake University April 1931.

TAU PSI, once one of the campus' most powerful and prestigious organizations, met an untimely death when Drake University declared it dissolved in 1931. It was indeed unfortunate that the misconduct of a handful of members terminated the success that Tau Psi had known throughout its 25-year history. The fraternity's positive contributions were in fact recognized in 1961 when Phi Delta Theta—unsuccessfully petitioned by Tau Psi during the 1920s—invited alumni to become charter members of its Drake chapter.

The beginnings of Tau Psi are at best unclear, but it is known that it was founded on April 17, 1907, by Roy Flynn '10, Martin Johnson '10, John Dwight '13, Carlisle

Lenton '10, Frank Wright '10, and Niel Van Meter '10.¹ In September of the same year the fraternity was almost exposed, which would have resulted in its dissolution due to the Drake trustees' prohibition against secret societies, when four members "made merry for a few hours with a liberal arts freshman."² Drake authorities termed the hazing incident "nothing more than a college prank" and failed to make the connection with fraternity pledging activities. In 1908, when the university policy toward fraternities was first being challenged, the existence of Tau Psi was still not known; its membership of six to ten men was half that of its two competitors, Gamma Sigma Kappa and Chi Delta. For the first seven years of its existence the organization



C. Ream Daugherty

Tau Psi's members on the steps of their 1161 22nd Street residence in the early 1920s; the home was the first to be purchased by a Drake fraternity or sorority.

was publicly known as the Tux Klub. The colors of Tau Psi were maroon, gold, and grey; its flower was the American Beauty Rose. The fraternity published an alumni journal entitled *The Monocle*.

During the second decade of the century Tau Psi evolved into a fraternity athletic power and began a tradition of widespread involvement in campus publications. In 1912 Professor of Singing Tolbert MacRae became the group's faculty advisor; through his guidance over a ten year period, Tau Psi would enjoy its most successful era.³ In 1918, the fraternity, in conjunction with the membership of the Men's Pan Hellenic, ceased operations for the duration of World War I. Tau Psi initiate Captain Harrison McHenry '14, died in the conflict.

Perhaps more rapid than that of any other fraternity was Tau Psi's recovery following the Great War. Alumni became extremely active, attending all meetings and functions and in general overseeing the affairs of Tau Psi. In 1920, a majority of the fraternity's alumni signed promissory notes in assisting with the acquisition of a \$15,000 chapter house at 1161 22nd Street. Previously, Tau Psi had rented five different residences, the first of which was occupied beginning in 1909.

Momentum continued, and when the time arrived for local groups to petition national organizations, Tau Psi was in a superior position to successfully receive a charter. Since its early history, the fraternity had a flirtation with Phi Delta Theta; many Tau Psis who transferred from Drake or attended graduate school elsewhere were initiated into the prestigious national. Likewise, a number of Phi Delta Theta initiates who attended the Drake University Law School were drawn to the local group. The exchange between the two organizations resulted in a close relationship between Tau Psi and Iowa Gamma chapter of Phi Delta Theta at Iowa State College; accounted one alumnus, the members of the two organizations "visited back and forth and accepted each other's members as cousins."⁴ Undoubtedly encouraged by the Iowa State chapter, Tau Psi submitted a formal bound petition to Phi Delta Theta on April 7, 1920.⁵ The petition was followed by less formal documents reaffirming the Drake local's interest in affiliation dated December 30, 1920; February 6, 1922; June 1, 1922; January 10, 1924; and November 1, 1924. None of the petitions were accepted.

Many theories exist as to Phi Delta Theta's lack of interest in Tau Psi; in fact, the national fraternity thought a great deal of

the local fraternity and very little of Drake University's enrollment and endowment. Although concern over loss of alumni support to a Drake chapter culminated in the area chapters preventing the Tau Psi petition from being voted on at the 1920 Atlanta convention, by 1922 the opponents had backed down and the petition was considered by Phi Delta Theta at its Kansas City convention of the same year. However, Tau Psi's petition nonetheless failed to receive the necessary affirmative vote of three-fourths of the delegates.⁶

By 1925 Tau Psi had become disillusioned over its primary goal of affiliation with Phi Delta Theta. Subsequently, the organization began to erode. Internal controls became lax, and Tau Psi's scholarship fell to the bottom of the social fraternity rankings. On December 14, 1928, Drake University placed the fraternity on probation "on account of the admitted irregularities of its members."⁷

Several years passed, and Tau Psi showed no improvement. On March 29, 1931, Dean of Men Raymond Davies recommended that the fraternity be dissolved. Davies did not foreclose the possibility of reorganization, "insuring first, a change of personnel, eliminating sundry offending members, and second, insuring a marked improvement in the morals of the fraternity with respect to scholarship and social conduct."⁸ The University Faculty Council agreed, and Tau Psi was stripped of its recognition by the Interfraternity Council. Immediately, the fraternity submitted a plan for reinstatement, but it was rejected by university officials. The Tau Psi Reorganization Committee was then formed by the group's alumni, and on April 20, 1931, it met with Drake President Daniel Morehouse. Members of the committee were optimistic following the conference, but the next day the University Faculty Council concluded that there was "a failure to uncover sufficient grounds to revoke the decree."⁹ Dean Davies observed that "it seems apparent that the council is inclined to take a firm stand on the problem of drinking of intoxicating liquors at Drake University."¹⁰ As far as Drake was concerned, Tau Psi no longer existed, although its members were allowed to reside at the fraternity residence until the conclusion of the school year.

Although it is doubtful that reorganization was subsequently considered, the 250 alumni of Tau Psi remained in close contact, reaccounting the success of the fraternity in its better days. In 1951, 20 years after the demise of Tau Psi, 38 alumni attended a reunion in Des Moines. Ten years later, Roy

B. Eddy, a 1924 Drake law graduate and president of the Tau Psi Alumni Association, bore the good tidings of the installation of Phi Delta Theta at Drake University:

By agreement with the local chapter [Phi Delta Theta], which has been voted on and confirmed by the General Council, it has been provided that any Tau Psi alumnus ex-

pressing his written desire may be initiated in due form by the Phi Delta Theta chapter nearest his permanent residence.

Seven Tau Psi initiates,¹¹ including Founder Roy Flynn, became charter members of Iowa Delta of Phi Delta Theta on October 28, 1961. A goal which had been pursued for 40 years was finally realized.

¹Sources also identify T. Collin Denny '10, as a founder of Tau Psi.

²"The Des Moines Register and Leader," September 27, 1907.

³MacRae left Drake for Iowa State College in the early 1920s. In 1947 Dr. MacRae would play a key role in assisting the Iowa State chapter of Theta Chi in establishing a colony of its fraternity on the Drake campus.

⁴Byron Allen, to Sheree L. Clark, June 15, 1982.

⁵Simultaneously, the Drake local fraternity Kappa Lambda petitioned Phi Delta Theta. Kappa Lambda initially had the support of the Des Moines Alumni Association of Phi Delta Theta, but later became affiliated with Alpha Tau Omega.

⁶In 1920 the Drake local fraternity Sigma Beta Kappa organized a jazz ensemble which performed at the national convention of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Sigma Beta Kappa was granted a charter, and Tau Psi decided to adopt the strategy. However, Tau Psi's performance at the 1922 Phi Delta Theta national convention was less than warmly received. Stated a Phi Delta offi-

cial, "We considered a Drake local at our convention . . . but they brought along a goddamn jazz band and nearly drove us all crazy. We turned them down cold." Joseph Walt, *The Era of Levere: A History of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity 1910-1930*. (Evanston, Illinois: Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 1972), p. 378.

⁷"The Des Moines Tribune," April 2, 1931.

⁸"The Des Moines Tribune," March 30, 1931.

⁹"The Des Moines Tribune," April 22, 1931.

¹⁰Id.

¹¹Others included Raymond Francis Dalbey, John James Henneberry, James Ephrian Shearer, Craig Ream Daugherty, Allen Edward Lynch, and Norman Vincent Moon.

Roy Eddy had previously been initiated into Phi Delta Theta while an undergraduate at the University of Iowa.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Ray Dalbey '27, and C. Ream Daugherty '24.

Theta Chi

Founded April 10, 1856, at Norwich University. Total charter grants: 185, of which 150 remain active. Total initiates: 106,000. Colors: military red and white; flower: the red carnation.

Chi Alpha colony recognized December 2, 1947; installed as the 98th or Gamma Tau chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity April 23, 1949.

THETA CHI'S existence at Drake University is directly attributable to the efforts of the fraternity's Alpha Mu chapter, located at Iowa State College. In the spring of 1947 Dale Ratliff of Alpha Mu learned that his brother Doyle '51, would be attending Drake, and the opportunity for colonization was immediately realized. In April representatives of Alpha Mu traveled to Des Moines and conferred with Roy L. Miller, a Drake faculty member and chapter advisor to Sigma Alpha Epsilon; the year before Miller had written to the national office of Theta Chi, stating that "your organization is among those that we feel would be a real credit to our campus and a desirable addition to our fraternity system."¹ The meeting was followed by a May 1 conference between representatives of Alpha Mu² and Counselor of Men S. C. Tiedman, who was conducive to the proposed colonization. Theta Chi's Executive Director Frederick W. Ladue (Iota, Colgate) concurred, writing to Tiedman that "Drake University is one of our splendid institutions and the fraternity would be very happy to have a chapter on your campus."³

In the fall of 1947 the Ratliff brothers and the membership of Alpha Mu began to organize a colony on the Drake campus. They were assisted by John Williams '49, a Drake student and pre-war pledge of Theta Chi at Indiana (Alpha Iota). Although no official university permission had been extended to begin recruitment, 15 men who had expressed interest in beginning a new fraternity were brought together. The colony—which named itself Chi Alpha—held its first meeting on October 18, 1947 in the basement of historic Lochroft Hall.⁴ On December 2, 1947, the colony was officially recog-

nized by the Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs.

In 1948 meetings were moved to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 3424 Forest Avenue. The fraternity grew in membership, and became visible on campus. The university encouraged its progress, and observed that "within the colony is represented every element you would want to find."⁵ In the fall, housing was acquired at 1355 30th Street, and in December, the colony petitioned Theta Chi for a charter. Notification that the petition had been accepted by the national fraternity was received shortly thereafter.

Installation of Chi Alpha colony as Gamma Tau chapter of Theta Chi took place on April 23, 1949. An informal luncheon was held in Morehouse Dormitory, which was followed by an initiation ceremony⁶ at the Masonic Lodge, 2708 Beaver Avenue. In the evening, a banquet held at the Hotel Commodore recognized the 25 initiates of Gamma Tau. Featured guests included Theta Chi's National President Stuart Kelly (Phi, North Dakota State) and Drake University President Henry G. Harmon.

Gamma Tau maintained the momentum it displayed as a colony for several years following its installation. Membership continued to increase, largely with the ongoing assistance of Alpha Mu chapter, and in April 1949 the chapter was extended full voting rights on the Drake Interfraternity Council (IFC). In a search for adequate housing the chapter moved to 2812 Cottage Grove Avenue in the fall of 1949, and then to 3721 Cottage Grove one year later.

The 1951 spring semester marked the beginning of over a decade of recurring problems and disappointments for Gamma Tau.

Membership dropped from 39 men to 27, necessitating the relinquishment of the chapter house in February. Financial pressures ensued, yet in the midst of uncertainty the chapter succeeded academically and was awarded campus scholarship honors. During the summer, suitable housing could not be located, and Gamma Tau participated in the 1951 fall formal rush without the benefit of a chapter residence. In October the chapter leased West Hall, located at 3303 University Avenue, from Drake. Although membership actually fell from 25 men to 20 between the fall and spring semesters, the national fraternity felt that Gamma Tau was making progress. In the summer of 1952 Gamma Tau was presented with the Sidney Ann Gilpin Lewis Memorial Trophy, representing the most significant improvement by a Theta Chi chapter during the preceeding year.

During the fall of 1952, Gamma Tau was again forced to recruit members without the use of a chapter house, having lost the University Avenue property in the middle of the prior semester. During the year which followed, the fraternity held its meetings and social functions at a number of locations, including the homes of local alumni. Two days before the start of the spring 1954 rush week the chapter moved into a residence located at 2625 Carpenter Avenue; largely through the assistance of the women of Delta Zeta, the house was prepared in time to welcome prospective members. However, the acquisition of housing failed to provide Gamma Tau with any type of impetus, and it soon appeared that the very future of the chapter was in question. There was a marked disunity within the fraternity, as its membership had split into three groups: varsity athletes, who had little time to devote to chapter affairs; veterans of the Korean Conflict, who viewed much of fraternity life as sophomoric; and revisionary underclassmen, who had hopes of reversing the chapter's downtrodden state. Although some chapter initiates were expelled for their lack of support, the membership of Gamma Tau continued to experience difficulty in working toward common goals.

Gamma Tau's total chapter membership stood at 10 men in the fall of 1954. Minutes from the October 25, 1954 chapter meeting recorded the receipt of a "letter from national stating their dissatisfaction and reporting our loss of charter if no improvement in six months." The fraternity's situation—particularly in the areas of finance and manpower—failed to improve, and on December 6, 1954 Gamma Tau considered a motion to "disband the chapter and turn in

our charter to the national on bankruptcy issue because of financial reasons, total disorganization, [and] no cooperation by the brothers." The proposal was tabled for one week, after which time it "was voted on and it was carried to keep the chapter."⁷ However, the dissatisfaction and failure to move forward continued, and on March 21, 1955 the motion to disband the chapter was reconsidered. A majority of Gamma Tau's members agreed that the chapter situation was hopeless, and the national office of Theta Chi was notified of the desire to relinquish the charter. Theta Chi responded by scheduling two field secretaries—Charles Ledbetter (Alpha Eta, North Carolina) and Glenn Snyder (Gamma Theta, San Diego State)—to travel to Drake and "make renewed efforts to retain the chapter."⁸ The university, on the other hand, felt that for Gamma Tau "to continue would be a great mistake . . . the local group has made the right decision."⁹ Ultimately, the handful of members who stayed on committed themselves to revitalizing Gamma Tau; when a reorganization meeting was held on April 4, 1955, the chapter reported the pledging of six men. By the end of the 1955 spring semester, Gamma Tau had grown to 26 men.

In the fall of 1955 the fraternity relocated to 1151 28th Street. Theta Chi continued to struggle as the smallest fraternity on campus with a membership of 17 men. In May 1956 the chapter house was vacated, and the fraternity's furniture placed in storage. During the 1956-57 school year Gamma Tau again functioned without housing, the effect of which on morale, as noted in the chapter's minutes, was significant:

There is no real incentive in Gamma Tau for men to join, such as lack of meeting place, need of fraternal spirit, need to build up interest among sororities . . . we should ask [past National President] Kelly for his advice, and if worse came to worse, we could go back as a colony.¹⁰

An optimistic Theta Chi returned to the Drake campus in the fall of 1957, complete with a chapter house located at 1600 30th Street. However, disappointment once again set in following the fraternity's failure to obtain a single new member during the first two months of the semester. The chapter barely survived; in the fall of 1958 its finances were so depressed that it obtained the permission of the university to employ a graduate counselor in lieu of a housemother.

During the summer of 1959 Gamma Tau considered making its fifth housing reloca-

tion in eight years. A problem was posed by the fact that the desired property—located at 1280 34th Street—was not zoned for use as a multiple residence dwelling. The Des Moines City Council was asked to rezone the entire block for fraternity and sorority use; while the proposal was being passed from committee to committee, Gamma Tau moved into the property. Even after all of 34th Street between Forest and University avenues was rezoned for use by fraternities and sororities, Theta Chi was not in conformance with the law, due to an insufficient lot width; not until May 1960 was the fraternity able to obtain a zoning variance, allowing it to legally occupy the residence.¹¹

Following the relocation, Gamma Tau's future initially appeared promising. There was some growth in membership, and the fraternity won scholarship honors for both semesters of the 1959-60 school year. Yet in the fall of 1961 the chapter again teetered on the brink of dormancy; the university, as an emergency measure, gave the fraternity permission to rent its house to non-members. In October 1961 Gamma Tau's membership consisted of nine men, only three of which resided in the chapter house; accounts payable totaled \$2300.¹² J. C. Byrd (Alpha Eta, North Carolina), a Theta Chi field secretary, came to Drake and spent over a month attempting to untangle Gamma Tau's difficulties. Byrd was successful in obtaining significant concessions on the part of the national fraternity,¹³ designed to assist the chapter's treasury; he was unsuccessful in obtaining the permission of the IFC to extend formal rush and to allow Gamma Tau to initiate pledges after three weeks of indoctrination.¹⁴ However, the traveling secretary's greatest contribution was to recruitment; by the end of the semester, the chapter's membership had grown to 32 men, the largest number in over a decade.

At the conclusion of the spring 1962 semester Gamma Tau moved out of its 1280 34th Street address. The chapter considered the purchase of a number of properties, but financing could not be achieved. With the arrival of the fall semester the "fraternity members agreed not to hold a houseless rush . . . and to point all efforts toward securing a new house."¹⁵ The housing search continued to be unproductive, and Gamma Tau's membership became disillusioned. In contacting the national office of Theta Chi, the university described the fraternity's situation as "serious and that the undergraduate chapter appeared ready to throw in the towel."¹⁶ The IFC considered suspending Gamma Tau

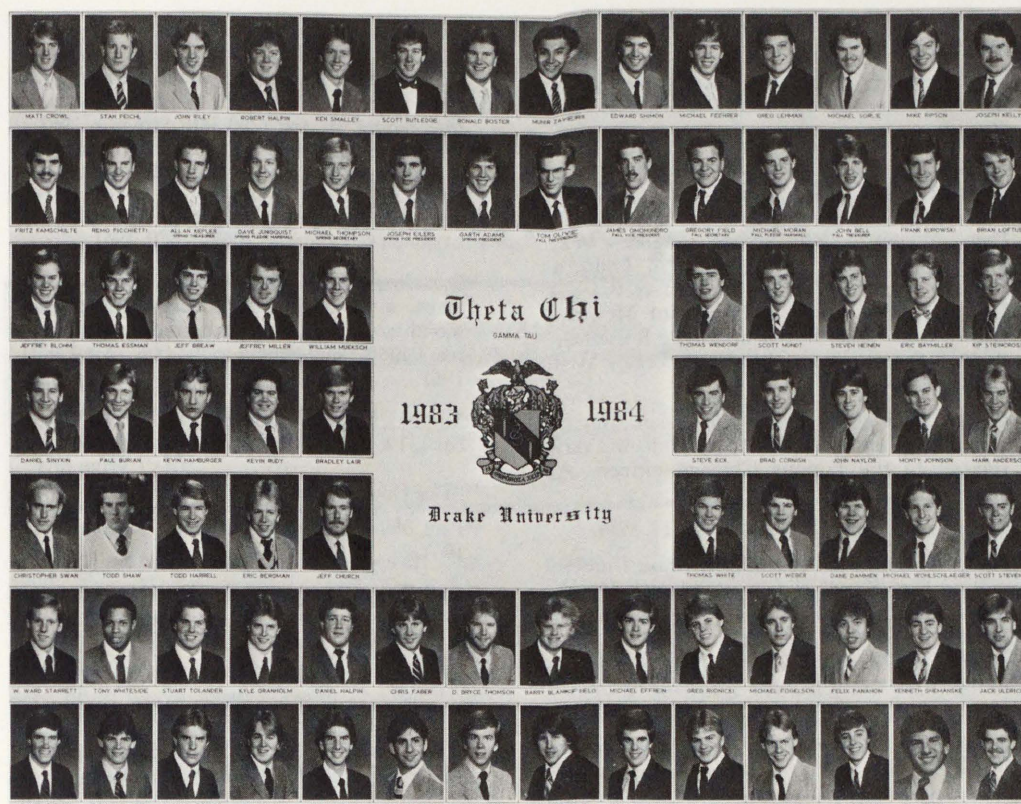
"due to a lack of activities,"¹⁷ including its absence from formal rush, IFC meetings, Greek Week, and social functions. J. C. Byrd returned to Drake for several visits, where he was "surprised at the news that the national [fraternity] would have to pay off all debts before the university would allow the chapter to continue."¹⁸ In time, Byrd arranged for the repayment of Gamma Tau's obligations, and with the assistance of local alumnus Tom Hyland '53, finally obtained housing for the chapter. In February 1963 Gamma Tau took up residence at 3425 Kingman Boulevard, the former home of Kappa Kappa Gamma. The chapter house, acquired at a cost of \$37,000, had a total capacity of 30 men.¹⁹

During the 1960s the chapter achieved some degree of stability. Gamma Tau increased its campus involvement, and at one point membership approached 50 men. But by 1969 the fraternity had lost its momentum; the chapter house was sold, and it appeared that Theta Chi had become Drake's first victim of the Viet Nam-era "fraternity depression."

By the fall of 1971, Gamma Tau's membership had fallen to seven men. The fraternity succeeded in pledging five men during each of the two subsequent semesters, and on August 1, 1972 moved into its first chapter house in three years, which was located at 3120 Cottage Grove Avenue. Gamma Tau continued to make progress, and in the summer of 1973 it was presented with a second Lewis Award for chapter improvement.

The 30-plus members of Gamma Tau relocated to 1247 33rd Street just prior to the 1974 fall rush week. Because of the small size of the residence, many of the chapter's initiates were forced to live elsewhere. In order to remedy the situation, the fraternity considered building an addition to the chapter house, and applied for a loan from the national office to that effect. At approximately the same time, it became apparent that Alpha Xi Delta was encountering increasing difficulty in maintaining its large residence due to a radical decline in its membership. Gamma Tau was able to secure the sorority house, located at 1320 34th Street, allegedly through use of the loan obtained from the 33rd Street addition. Gamma Tau moved into the residence in 1975 and began a program of chapter revitalization, slowly yet consistently building up its membership and Greek and campus involvement.

Following a 30-year struggle to achieve status on the Drake campus, by 1979 Theta Chi had become recognized as an important part



From a membership which consisted of a mere seven men in 1971, Theta Chi has grown to become the largest fraternity at Drake University.

of the Greek community. The Office of Greek Affairs, in comparative rankings of all fraternities, evaluated the chapter as fifth out of ten, but added that Gamma Tau had "all the ingredients necessary to be the best chapter on campus." Through dedication, concerted effort and careful resource allocation, Theta Chi has arguably achieved the position of Drake's most impressive fraternity. In the fall of 1983 Gamma Tau could claim a membership of 93 men—the largest on campus—in addition to having won the IFC scholarship award for five consecutive semesters. Theta Chi has truly become the undisputed Cinderella story in the history of fraternities at Drake University.

Gamma Tau's most renowned initiate is Karl Kasulke '63, who played professional football for the Minnesota Vikings from 1963 to 1972. Drake Theta Chi Michael Lytle '70, was killed in Vietnam on October 26, 1969; a university scholarship was subsequently created in his honor.

During the 1950s the chapter occasionally published an alumni newsletter entitled *Gamma Tau Talks*. A more recent publication is *The Gamma Tau Tribune*. A liaison, Daughters of the Crossed Swords, was organized in 1967.

During its 34 years of operation at Drake University, Gamma Tau has initiated 467 men.

¹To Frederick W. Ladue, executive director, Theta Chi, July 8, 1946.

²Among those attending from the Ames chapter was Tolbert MacRae, Alpha Mu's chapter advisor. Dr. MacRae, a Drake graduate and former faculty member, had served as faculty advisor to the Drake local fraternity Tau Psi. When Alpha Mu was installed in 1922, MacRae, who had recently accepted a position in the music depart-

ment at Iowa State, was initiated as a charter member.

³June 5, 1947

⁴Lochroft Hall was known as Lochroft Mansion prior to its 1940s conversion to a dormitory. In 1921, Kappa Alpha Theta conducted its first pledging ceremony at Lochroft; it was later the home of Alpha Tau Omega and Tau Kappa Epsilon. Shortly after the Theta Chi colony's

first meetings the Pi Kappa Phi Club was also organized in Lochroff's basement.

⁵N. A. Johnson, assistant dean of students, to the national office of Theta Chi, December 15, 1948.

⁶Those initiated included Richard Antonello, Carrol R. Basset, Rahert Bastrom, Alex Cameron, Roger Capone, Wayne Davis, Henry de Boer, Alphonse Flohr, Robert Cittins, Harry Green, John Hull, Richard Jensen, Andrew Katonias, Roger Lientz, William Lindsay, Robert Lukowski, Charles Martz, Leonard McGee, Doyle Ratliff, William Rechner, Dale Rossetter, Richard Stevens, James Stackham, LeRoy Williams, and John Williams.

Contrary to a popularly held belief, Roger Capone—Gamma Tau's first president—was not related to the famous Chicago citizen Al Capone.

⁷Minutes of Gamma Tau, December 13, 1954.

⁸Robert Kamm, dean of students, Drake University, to Carl Kasten, business manager, Drake University, March 24, 1955.

⁹Id.

¹⁰Minutes, Gamma Tau, December 4, 1956.

¹¹On February 9, 1960 Gamma Tau was granted a temporary permit to occupy the residence until July 1, 1960.

Joining Theta Chi in the request for a variance was the property's owner, Miss Josephine Rounds. Miss Rounds may have later regretted her advocacy on behalf of the fraternity; when the chapter vacated 1280 34th Street in 1962, it left owing her \$1680 in back rent. In time, the indebtedness was repaid.

¹²Paul Bloland, dean of students, Drake University, memo to the files, October 20, 1961.

¹³Including the cancellation of \$2,200 in fraternity loans; a subsidy of \$200 a month for four months; a \$1,000 loan; and a reduced initiation fee. Paul Bloland, memo to the files, October 31, 1961.

¹⁴Minutes, Drake Interfraternity Council, November 1, 1961.

¹⁵"The Drake Times-Delphic," February 5, 1963.

¹⁶Paul Bloland, memo to the files, September 28, 1962.

¹⁷Paul Bloland, memo to the files, November 11, 1962.

¹⁸Id.

¹⁹Paul Bloland, to Tom Hyland, February 6, 1963.

The national office loaned the chapter \$7,000 toward the purchase of the house.

Theta Nu Epsilon

Founded December 5, 1870, at Wesleyan University. Total charter grants: 123, all of which had become inactive or affiliated with other national fraternities by 1943. Total estimated initiates: over 30,000.

An unnamed group of Drake students installed as the 111th or **Beta Iota** chapter of Theta Nu Epsilon Fraternity 1921; charter withdrawn 1924; chapter continued through the early 1930s.

THETA NU EPSILON was easily the most mysterious fraternity ever to be organized at Drake University. Its presence on campus, which lasted for over a decade, was shrouded in secrecy; the names of its members, all of whom were initiates of Drake fraternities, were purposely never documented; and nary a trace of the organization's existence, which was never approved by the university, was left behind.¹

The Drake students who belonged to Theta Nu Epsilon had good reason for maintaining a low profile; the organization had been banned by most colleges and universities in the United States, and membership in it was grounds for expulsion from every other national fraternity.² Although Theta Nu Epsilon came to be described as "a mock fraternity of Greek parasites worshipping at the shrine of Bacchanalian hoodlumism,"³ the organization was not always held in such low esteem. Originally founded for the purpose of "bringing together a group of congenial fellows who possessed ability for leadership, and were representative in all phases of college life,"⁴ Theta Nu Epsilon subsequently became discredited. Charters were indiscriminately issued to groups on a multitude of campuses, with the fraternity's chapters gaining an unsavory reputation for controlling student politics and allegedly engaging in other "subversive" activities. Repeated attempts by Theta Nu Epsilon's leaders to reorganize the fraternity along more acceptable lines all ultimately failed,⁵ and its chapters one by one passed out of existence.

Beta Iota chapter was established at Drake University sometime in 1921. Three years later its charter, along with those from doz-

ens of other *sub-rosa* chapters, was recalled by the national fraternity which was attempting to limit its chapter roll to *bona fide* social groups. Nonetheless, the Drake chapter continued to operate in its secret fashion, conducting meetings immediately prior to student elections as opposed to following a predesignated schedule. At these meetings, the members of Theta Nu Epsilon would decide upon their choice for a particular campus office, contest, or honor; establish alliances between social organizations to ensure the election of the pre-selected candidate; and if necessary, discuss means for the rigging of ballot boxes, or in general thwarting an honest vote. Allegedly, the candidate with the backing of Theta Nu Epsilon was successful far more times than not.

Membership in Theta Nu Epsilon, which ranged from 10-20 men, required a unanimous vote of the chapter. The members of the Drake chapter were fraternity men who were influential both inside and outside of their respective social organizations. Initiates of Theta Nu Epsilon were sworn to secrecy as to the existence and the functioning of the organization. Apparently, no one violated the trust, as Theta Nu Epsilon was never uncovered. Its disbanding, which occurred sometime during the 1930s, was as mysterious as its establishment.

Undoubtedly, had the university discovered the operation of Theta Nu Epsilon, the society's practices would have been condemned as abominable. Yet in retrospect this type of "Tammany Hall" activity appears seemingly harmless, if not humorous. There were certainly worse things a group of college men could have become involved in.

¹Aside from the personal accounts of a small group of alumni who admitted holding membership in Theta Nu Epsilon—and requested to remain anonymous—the only record of the fraternity's presence at Drake University is contained in Francis W. Shepardson, ed., *Baird's Manual of American College Fraternities*, thirteenth edition (Menasha, Wisconsin: Collegiate Press, 1935), p. 276. Casual reference was also included in several editions of the university annual, *The Quax*, during the 1920s.

²The Drake local fraternity Chi Delta's 1948 petition to Sigma Phi Epsilon contained a statement that none of its initiates held membership in

Theta Nu Epsilon.

³John Robson, ed., *Baird's Manual of American College Fraternities*, seventeenth edition (Menasha, Wisconsin: Collegiate Press, 1963), p. 29.

⁴Baird's Manual, thirteenth edn., p. 274.

⁵The most commendable attempt came in 1925; all clandestine activity was ended, the initiation of members of other fraternities forbidden, and a program was enacted whereas Theta Nu Epsilon would become a general college fraternity.

Zeta Beta Tau

Founded December 29, 1898, in New York City.¹ Total active chapters: 90. Total initiates: 95,400. Colors: blue and white.

PHI EPSILON PI founded November 23, 1904, at the College of the City of New York. Total charter grants: 80, of which 54 were active at the time of the fraternity's 1970 merger into Zeta Beta Tau. Total initiates: 26,800. Colors: purple and gold; flower: the white carnation.

Phi Epsilon Phi founded October 22, 1965; installed as the 80th or **Beta Psi** chapter of **Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity** May 7, 1969; became Beta Psi chapter of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity under the terms of the merger agreement between the two national organizations March 1970. Non-operating following the conclusion of the spring 1976 semester.

ZETA BETA TAU has the distinction of being the only Drake fraternity to attribute its existence to a corporate merger. In 1970 the national fraternity Phi Epsilon Pi merged into Zeta Beta Tau; its Beta Psi chapter at Drake University became Beta Psi of Zeta Beta Tau through the terms of the agreement. Zeta Beta Tau in fact represents the amalgamation of five separate, traditionally Jewish national fraternities.²

Although the Drake chapter of Phi Epsilon Pi had operated for only 10 months at the time of the merger, the organization represented a 30-year effort by the national fraternity to enter onto the campus. Phi Epsilon Pi first became knowledgeable of opportunities at Drake University in 1936 when the Drake Men's Club contacted it and a number of other national Jewish fraternities in regard to affiliation; although Alpha Epsilon Pi was ultimately selected, Phi Epsilon Pi maintained an interest in the institution. When Alpha Epsilon Pi's attempts to revive its Drake chapter met with a slow start following World War II, Drake's administration initially expressed a willingness to allow Phi Epsilon Pi to colonize; however, soon thereafter Alpha Epsilon Pi was in fact re-established, and the determination was made that the campus could not support two Jewish fraternities.³

In 1961 Alpha Epsilon Pi was experiencing internal difficulties; several pledges left the organization "and promptly wrote to five national Jewish fraternities [including Phi Epsilon Pi] indicating that they were in-

terested in starting a new group."⁴ The university took the position "that with these conditions prevailing in Alpha Epsilon Pi, it [would] be difficult to deny other groups from organizing competing fraternal groups for Jewish men,"⁵ and in time gave serious consideration to allowing Phi Epsilon Pi or its competitor Phi Sigma Delta to colonize. Due to the fact that the men who had left Alpha Epsilon Pi expressed a preference toward Phi Sigma Delta, the university backed their choice, and the Phi Sigma Club came into being. However, within several years Alpha Epsilon Pi exhibited significant improvement, and the university's administration withdrew its support for a second Jewish fraternity. The membership of the Phi Sigma Club—which had changed its name to Phi Sigma Omega—likewise lost their enthusiasm and the organization eventually disbanded.⁶

In the fall of 1965 Michael Keer '68, and Elliot Gordon '68, transferred to Drake from Northern Illinois University. While at Northern Illinois, Keer and Gordon had been involved in the formation of Delta Kappa, a local fraternity which eventually became Beta Lambda chapter of Phi Epsilon Pi.⁷ Although neither of the two men had intended to establish a chapter of Phi Epsilon Pi upon their arrival at Drake, Keer and Gordon were dissatisfied with the fraternities that they found on campus. Keer proceeded to form his own organization to, as he put it, "add new blood" to Drake's fraternity system. Thus, on October 22, 1965, Phi Epsilon

Φ E Φ

In English is "Pheph"—
That doesn't spell anything—
But it means a lot.

IT MEANS: Youth
Progress
Energy
Activity
Sex
Community
Excitement

We can't promise everything...People must do some things for themselves!

Discover the whole meaning

Phi Epsilon Phi
Mens' Social Club
SMOKER
Mon. Sept. 23
Tues. Sept. 24
7:00 PM
1050 25th St.

Men On
The Move

Φ E Φ

One example of Phi Epsilon Phi's disregard for the conventional, which appeared in the campus newspaper, *The Drake Times-Delphic*.

Pi was founded; joining Keer were Gordon, Frank Friedman '67, Jack Schultz '68, John Rode '69, Rusty Yale '69, and Michael Hurvitz '69.

From its inception Phi Epsilon Phi gained a reputation for being somewhat nonconformist. Its rush literature—scoffed at by other fraternities—stated that

As Drake's newest fraternity, we offer you the unique opportunity to become part of a new trend of fraternities: individualism, no discrimination, absolutely no hazing, and where friendship means something. We invite all male students—Black and White.

Slightly ahead of its time, Phi Epsilon Phi also all-but abolished pledgship, instead opting for a two-month "orientation program."⁸

By the conclusion of the 1965 fall semes-

ter, Phi Epsilon Phi had attracted 15 men, and the fraternity petitioned the Student-Faculty Council for recognition as a men's social club. Having already received approval from the dean of students, Phi Epsilon Phi was formally recognized as a Drake student organization on March 10, 1966. In the same month the fraternity approached the Interfraternity Council (IFC) for recognition as a colony of Phi Epsilon Pi. As no procedures for colonization existed, the IFC determined that the fraternity would wait for a period of one year before its status was determined. In the interim, Phi Epsilon Phi was prohibited from participating in formal rush.

Phi Epsilon Phi had grown to 20 men in the spring of 1967. It decided against petitioning the IFC for colony status, and instead embarked on a vigorous membership recruitment campaign. Through a series of summer rush "smokers," the fraternity was able to obtain 30 new members.

Strengthened by substantial growth, an optimistic Phi Epsilon Phi resubmitted its petition for recognition to the IFC in the early fall of 1967. Repeatedly tabled, the issue was finally considered on December 13, 1967. The request for recognition as a colony failed to receive the required three-fourths vote of the IFC's membership,⁹ largely due to a rumor that Phi Epsilon Phi had "padded" its scholarship roster with non-members. When it was subsequently learned that the rumor was erroneous, campus dissatisfaction with the IFC resulted. The IFC responded by drafting specific conditions for colony recognition and council membership, which became part of its constitution in March 1968.

Although disappointed with Phi Epsilon Phi's failure to obtain a seat on the IFC, the national office of Phi Epsilon Pi nonetheless was impressed with the organization. It continued to encourage the fraternity to work toward national affiliation, and in August 1968, secured a residence at 1050 25th Street for Phi Epsilon Phi's use.

In the fall of 1968 Phi Epsilon Phi was excluded from formal rush for the third consecutive year. The IFC had initially considered permitting the fraternity to participate, but not even a rigid set of rules including a requirement that Phi Epsilon Phi postpone extending bids for one week after the other fraternities had done so, could pass the body. During the semester, Phi Epsilon Phi was able to obtain seven new members, and succeeded in fulfilling the requirements for recognition laid out by the IFC during the preceeding spring. However, when Phi Ep-



Eric Rubenstein

Much to the chagrin of the Drake Interfraternity Council, this group of men became Beta Psi chapter of Phi Epsilon Pi on May 7, 1969.

silon Phi's petition was again considered on December 11, 1968, only two of the IFC's members voted in favor of its acceptance. Tom Santefort '69, president of the IFC, explained that his organization had an interest in maintaining the strength of campus fraternities, and that "Phi Epsilon Phi would be a weak link."¹⁰ The IFC seemed particularly troubled by the fact that Phi Epsilon Phi's membership had dropped from 42 to 14 men, but the fraternity itself maintained that the rejection was based upon a protection of Alpha Epsilon Pi's interests.¹¹ Phi Epsilon Phi alleged bad faith on the part of the IFC, and called for a special investigation.

Following an investigation by the Student Personnel Committee (SPC) of the University Senate which cleared the IFC of any wrongdoing on the question of Phi Epsilon Phi, the fraternity sought recognition through alternative channels. On December 17, 1968, it petitioned the SPC, stating in part that

The purpose of Phi Epsilon Phi Social Club is to become an independent fraternity and to be affiliated with Phi Epsilon Pi International Fraternity. The group was formed with the intentions of meeting the wide and new interests and principles of the modern college male. It is on these grounds that we seek recognition as an independent fraternity known as Phi Epsilon Pi and have national affiliation with the same.

The committee, aware that Phi Epsilon Phi had previously complied with all require-

ments for IFC recognition and that the student body was championing the cause of the fraternity, "officially recognized Phi Epsilon Phi as a student organization in accordance with the purpose for which it was founded"¹² on May 1, 1969.

Phi Epsilon Phi became Beta Psi chapter of Phi Epsilon Pi on May 7, 1969. Executive Director Albert Greenstone (Nu, Virginia) officiated over the initiation of 20 men in ceremonies held at the fraternity's residence.¹³ In March 1970 the chapter became affiliated with Zeta Beta Tau in accordance with a merger agreement; it is believed that Beta Psi had been the final chapter installed by Phi Epsilon Pi.

For several years Beta Psi successfully functioned independent of the IFC. In the spring of 1971 the fraternity, which had maintained an impressive academic record since its establishment, was included in the IFC's scholarship rankings; a semester later, it was awarded with the scholarship cup. By 1973, however, the chapter—which had relocated to a more modest dwelling at 2932 Rutland Avenue—was undergoing difficulties. Membership recruitment met with limited success and in 1974 the chapter—perhaps in an act of desperation—accepted the IFC's offer of membership. This came as a disappointment to many of the fraternity's alumni, who maintained that Zeta Beta Tau had given up its most distinguishing and attractive characteristic: independence.

During the summer of 1976, Zeta Beta

Tau relinquished its chapter house, then located at 2915 Rutland Avenue. Some of the fraternity's members considered dropping their affiliation with Zeta Beta Tau in order to assist Sigma Chi with its colonization efforts, but such a coalition failed to materialize. Zeta Beta Tau did not return to campus in the fall of 1976.¹⁴

Phi Epsilon Pi/Zeta Beta Tau is remembered by many for its annual faculty variety

show, first undertaken in the spring of 1967. Proceeds from the event were donated to a scholarship fund for foreign students. In 1972 Zeta Beta Tau sponsored the first muscular dystrophy danceathon to be held at Drake.

During its six years of affiliation with Zeta Beta Tau, in addition to the one year during which it operated as a chapter of Phi Epsilon Pi, Beta Psi initiated 56 men.

¹Zeta Beta Tau was originally organized as a Zionist youth society composed of Jewish students from several New York City universities. The first actual collegiate chapter (Alpha) was formed at the City College of New York in 1903.

²In 1959 Phi Alpha merged into Phi Sigma Delta; Phi Sigma Delta in turn merged into Zeta Beta Tau in 1969. In 1961 Kappa Nu merged into Phi Epsilon Pi. At the time of the Phi Epsilon Pi/Zeta Beta Tau merger, the fraternities had 54 and 115 active chapters, respectively, constituting the largest incorporation ever undertaken among social fraternities.

³George Beery, dean of students, Drake University, to George Toll, executive director, Alpha Epsilon Pi, April 23, 1947.

⁴Paul Bloland, dean of students, to Henry Harmon, president, Drake University, February 23, 1961.

⁵Paul Bloland, memo to the files, February 10, 1961.

⁶For more information, see *Phi Sigma Omega*.

⁷Gordon visited Northern Illinois in the fall of 1965 for the installation of Delta Kappa as Beta Lambda chapter of Phi Epsilon Pi, where he was initiated as a charter member. Keer was not present at the installation, but did travel to Dekalb later in the semester; he was initiated into Phi Epsilon Pi by Beta Lambda's president during the halftime of a Northern football game.

⁸During the spring of 1968 Phi Epsilon Phi initiated its pledges immediately upon affiliation. Subsequently, pledgeship was reinstated "to satisfy IFC members" who had previously blocked the fraternity's membership on the council. "The Drake Times-Delphic," September 29, 1968.

⁹Voting against the petition were Alpha Epsilon Pi, Alpha Tau Omega, Phi Delta Theta, and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

¹⁰"The Drake Times-Delphic," December 18, 1968.

¹¹Phi Epsilon Phi's belief was a distinct possibility. A year earlier an IFC officer had written "It was my understanding . . . the council adopted the position [on excluding Phi Epsilon Phi from rush] for the purpose that the AET's would have 'first crack' at any of the potential Phi Eps." With other Drake fraternities pledging an increasing number of Jewish students, Alpha Epsilon Pi was leery of losing additional potential members to Phi Epsilon Phi.

¹²Steven Schodde, coordinator of student development services, Drake University, to Mark Halper, president, Phi Epsilon Phi, May 2, 1969.

¹³Although accurate records are not available, it is believed that the charter members of Beta Psi chapter included Mark Halper (president), Stribling Boynton, Roger Rasmussen, Jerry Niemeyer, Ron Macpherson, Leslie Kay, Craig Wagner, Jeffrey Lieberman, Randy Rosen, Jim Steward, Mike Stuart, Avram Malkin, Richard Jeul, Matt Warren, Chuck Podall, Eric Rubenstein, Steven Kahn, Michael Hurvitz, and Marty Snow.

Hurvitz was one of the original members of Phi Epsilon Phi.

¹⁴Zeta Beta Tau has maintained a continuing interest in the re-establishment of Beta Psi chapter. In the spring of 1978 "a revival at Drake" was planned but never undertaken. Thomas G. Bognanno, director of chapter affairs, Zeta Beta Tau, to Robert Kerr, fraternity advisor, Drake University, June 13, 1978.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Dr. Michael Keer, Eric Rubenstein '71, and James Greer, executive director, Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity.

The Drake Interfraternity Council



This history of the Drake University Interfraternity Council (IFC) fails to match the volume and detail of its counterpart, the Panhellenic Council. There are two reasons for this fact: first, unlike the Panhellenic Council, the IFC failed to take steps to preserve the minutes from its meetings; second, the IFC has traditionally played a far less active role in regulating the membership recruitment and other affairs of its member organizations than has the Panhellenic Council.

The first body organized to regulate and promote the activities of fraternities at Drake University was the Men's Inter-Club Council, established in 1911 at the behest of Gamma Sigma Kappa. Joining Gamma Sigma Kappa as the founding members of the organization were the three other fraternities then functioning on campus: Chi Delta, Sigma Beta Kappa, and Tau Psi. During the 1912-13 school year, as local fraternities continued to pressure the university for open

recognition, the Men's Inter-Club Council became the Men's Pan Hellenic. In 1915 two additional groups, Kappa Lambda and Phi Gamma Lambda, were admitted to membership. Following the entrance of the United States into World War I, the Men's Pan Hellenic dissolved for the duration of the conflict.

World War I having come to an end, the Men's Pan Hellenic was re-established. In 1920 the prohibition against affiliation with national fraternities was lifted by the university, and each of the Pan Hellenic's members petitioned the organization of their choice. However, only two groups were successful in achieving affiliation, resulting in the local organizations retaining control of the council. The local organizations, mired in tradition, favored a *laissez faire* approach to fraternity governance; the two national groups, particularly Alpha Tau Omega, desired that the council become more progressive. In 1926 when Delta Zeta Chi—an impressive group founded in 1921 which later became a chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon—petitioned for membership on the council and was turned down, it became apparent that the Men's Pan Hellenic was unprepared and unwilling to adjust to changes in the social climate at Drake University. Alpha Tau Omega resigned from the organization and proposed the establishment of an Interfraternity Council, composed of itself, Delta Zeta Chi, the university's two national law fraternities, and the local fraternity Chi Delta, which had been suspended from the Panhellenic for recruitment infractions. Although such a coalition was not formed, the Men's Pan Hellenic proved unable to regroup in the fall of 1926. As a result, all of Drake's social fraternities—Alpha Tau Omega, Chi Delta, Delta Zeta Chi, Gamma Sigma Kappa, Phi Gamma Lambda, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and Tau Psi—realized the need for a single body to protect their mutual interests. The older groups acquiesced, and the Interfraternity Council (IFC) was formed.

The IFC differed from the Men's Pan

Hellenic in three respects. First, the IFC was officially recognized by the university, making its decisions binding upon all members; previously, compliance with Pan Hellenic decisions was more or less discretionary. Second, the constitution of the IFC provided for extensive regulation of rushing, pledging, initiation, and the expansion of fraternities at Drake; the Pan Hellenic had consistently looked to the university's administration to make such decisions. Third, the IFC pledged itself to keep its administrative expenses minimal; an attribute which had led to the Pan Hellenic's demise was its penchant for lavish formal dances and other affairs, which resulted in prohibitive assessments being levied against its members.

In 1937 the IFC admitted its first new member, Alpha Epsilon Pi. Since the conclusion of World War II the IFC has required that local fraternities and colonies of national organizations serve a probationary period on the council prior to being extended full membership. This period has generally, although not always, lasted until the group is installed by a national fraternity.

Throughout the years the IFC has maintained a relatively inconspicuous presence on the Drake University campus. This is not to say that it has failed to promote and regulate the affairs of its members, for the university has intervened only upon a limited number of occasions. Perhaps the IFC's most active decade was the 1960s, during which it estab-

lished a Junior Interfraternity Council, an Alumni Interfraternity Council, stringent scholastic requirements for its member organizations, and a highly responsive judicial committee. The IFC occupied its own office during the period, which was located at 2625 Carpenter Avenue.

From its inception as the Men's Inter-Club Council through the early 1970s, the IFC was composed of two representatives from each fraternity, one of which was generally the chapter president. During the 1970s a single member other than an executive officer represented his organization, often resulting in a communication gap between the IFC and the individual chapters of which it was composed. In approximately 1979, voting membership in the IFC became restricted to chapter presidents.

Originally, officers of the IFC were elected from and by the fraternity representatives. Immediately following World War II a rotation scheme was established, ensuring that each member organization would have the opportunity to provide leadership for the council. In April 1960 the IFC reverted to the election of officers. Beginning with the Inter-Club Council, the executive committee of the IFC has been composed of a president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. In 1963 the office of sergeant-at-arms was created, which subsequently was changed to member-at-large. Since 1980 this position has been that of the IFC rush chairman.

Alpha Chi Omega

Founded October 15, 1885, at DePauw University. Total charter grants: 144, of which 121 remain active. Total initiates: 106,000. Colors: scarlet and olive green; flower: the scarlet carnation with smilax.

Alpha Rho Omega founded December 3, 1914; installed as the 31st or **Alpha Theta** chapter of Alpha Chi Omega Fraternity June 10, 1921. Charter withdrawn fall 1933.

ALPHA CHI OMEGA, and the Drake local sorority Alpha Rho Omega which it chartered in 1921, had more in common than similar sounding names; apparently through coincidence, both organizations were established by and for women undertaking the study of the fine arts. Alpha Chi Omega was founded at DePauw University's School of Music in 1885, largely through the assistance of the college's dean; until 1915 the constitution of the national sorority required that a percentage of each chapter's membership be engaged in the study of music. Alpha Rho Omega was organized through the guidance of Dr. Holmes Cowper, dean of the Drake Conservatory of Music, with all but one of its nine original members and many of the sorority's subsequent initiates enrolled in the Fine Arts Department.¹

Alpha Rho Omega was officially organized on December 3, 1914, with Mildred Talmage '18, Genevieve Harper '17, Ione Walker '18, Maud Newgard '18, Vida Hanna '17, Lucille Eaton '17, Edna L. Thompson '16, Alice Boeke '18, and Marguerite Foley '16, comprising its initial membership. As mentioned previously, the women were brought together by Dean Cowper, although the actual faculty advisement of the group was assumed by Professor of Piano Forte Gertrude Huntoon Nourse.² The first public announcement of Alpha Rho Omega's existence appeared several weeks later in *The Drake Daily Delphic*, where the group was referred to as "Fonia."³ Within a short period of time the sorority became known as Alpha Rho Omega, or simply A.R.O. As the Drake University Board of Trustees had previously lifted its prohibition against fraternities and sororities, no difficulty was posed in the assumption of a Greek-letter name. Alpha

Rho Omega adopted purple and white as its colors, and the white chrysanthemum as its flower.

On June 2, 1915, the Women's Panhellenic Council unanimously extended membership to Alpha Rho Omega, making it the tenth sorority to possess a seat on the governing board.⁴ The following semester, the group began the operation of its first residence, which was located at 2920 Brattleboro Avenue. Two years later, Alpha Rho Omega relocated to an unfurnished residence at 1336 23rd Street, the outfitting of which necessitated a large investment on the part of the sorority.

Perhaps one of the most notable attributes of Alpha Rho Omega was the unity of its members, particularly following their graduation. Throughout the years, many of the sorority's 83 initiates—along with Alpha Rho Omega's longtime housemother, Ezza Spencer Pullman—maintained frequent contact through reunions and correspondence. For a brief period, the accomplishments of alumnae could be read in the sorority's journal, *The Aro*.

When the Drake University Board of Trustees lifted the prohibition against affiliation with national fraternities and sororities in February 1920, Alpha Rho Omega initially expressed an interest in Alpha Phi and Delta Gamma; the former national's conservative expansion policy precluded extension at Drake, while the latter organization was already actively pursuing another local sorority, Iota Alpha Omega. Alpha Rho Omega next considered Alpha Chi Omega and ultimately submitted a petition for its review. On June 4, 1921, Alpha Rho Omega was notified that it would be installed as Alpha Theta

chapter of Alpha Chi Omega; less than a week later, the chartering festivities began.

On Thursday, June 9, the formal pledging ceremony of Alpha Chi Omega was conducted at the Alpha Rho Omega residence, 1336 23rd Street. Formal initiation took place the following evening at Hoyt Sherman Place (the Des Moines Women's Club), located at 15th Street and Woodland Avenue. Officiating over the initiation of 29 charter members⁵ were Myra VanZandt Bennett (Phi, Kansas), extension vice president for the national organization, Athol Brophy (Phi), and Grace Brown (Beta, Albion). Representatives from the Alpha Chi Omega chapters located at Iowa (Sigma) and Simpson (Mu) were also in attendance.

Installation ceremonies for Alpha Theta chapter were continued on Saturday, June 11. In the afternoon a reception was held at Hoyt Sherman Place, attended by over 200 Alpha Chi Omegas, parents of the new initiates, and Drake Greeks and faculty. The affair was followed by an installation banquet that evening, held in the Ivory Room of the Hotel Fort Des Moines. Eighty members of Alpha Chi Omega participated in the toast program which consisted of sorority songs, the exchange of traditional greetings, and the loving cup ceremony of the sorority. On Sunday morning, a model chapter meeting was conducted at Alpha Theta's residence.⁶

In 1922, Alpha Theta relocated to 1320 34th Street, a very desirable residence acquired at an attractive price. Chapter alumnae, along with the Des Moines Alumnae Club of Alpha Chi Omega,⁷ assisted Alpha Theta with the purchase of the property. During the remainder of the decade, the chapter enjoyed consistent operations, although its accomplishments appear to have been overshadowed by those of other sororities on campus.⁸

By the early 1930s, the effects of the

Depression were being felt keenly by Drake's sororities. Chapter houses that just a few years before had been full were now operating at less than maximum capacity; a college education, let alone Greek affiliation, had become a luxury. The situation was further aggravated by the opening of the Women's (now Morehouse) Dormitory, a university imposed one-year pledge period, and the large number of women enrolled in two-year programs. Additionally, the Drake Panhellenic Council did not utilize a limitation system, which could have helped to balance membership among sororities.

It was the combination of these factors which resulted in the demise of Alpha Chi Omega at Drake. The chapter's membership was comprised largely of two-year women; because one half of their affiliation was spent in pledgeship, a leadership drain developed. Saddled with its large chapter house, financial difficulties appeared eminent for Alpha Theta. On October 19, 1933, Alpha Chi Omega announced the withdrawal of Alpha Theta's charter,⁹ making it the second of what had the potential of becoming a succession of Depression-induced sorority closings.¹⁰ However, chapter alumnae indicated that "financial matters had not been the cause of the decision."¹¹

A week after the announcement of the decision affecting Alpha Theta, Drake President Daniel W. Morehouse stated that "the school is sorry to lose such a group and I would have been glad to help in any way possible, had I known of it sooner."¹² Alumnae of the chapter disputed the claim, stating that they had in fact made several appeals to the university to suspend the one-year pledgeship policy. Alpha Chi Omega did not return to Drake University following the end of the fall 1933 semester.¹³

During its 12 years at Drake University, Alpha Chi Omega initiated 159 women.

¹Alpha Rho Omega was preceeded by the Kiku Club (Kappa Kappa Upsilon), founded in 1909 as a social organization for women enrolled in the Conservatory. By 1913 its membership had become interdepartmental. Likewise, Alpha Rho Omega's membership eventually became cosmopolitan in makeup.

²Nourse was considered a founder of Alpha Rho Omega.

³December 15, 1914. "Fonia" is the Greek word for "voice."

⁴At the time of Alpha Rho Omega's admission, the Panhellenic Council's constitution specified that the number of groups holding membership

in the council would be limited to ten. The stipulation would never be challenged as no more than ten sororities ever operated simultaneously on the Drake campus.

⁵Pearl Van Orsdel (president), Helen Albert, Wilda Augustine, Ruth Bell, Elise Cecil, Ebba Clause, Rhoda Clause, Marjorie Hanson, Myrna Hicks, Katherine Jacklin, Grayce Kent, Ruth Lindsey, Lela Lingenfelter, Ethel Mak, Ellen Meline, Leone Moorhead, Bernice Nelson, Elva Nelson, Mildred Nelson, Vernice Nelson, Helen Phillips, Elberta Soule, Laila Stickler, Ruth Weisbrod, Faye Wilkinson, June Wilkinson, and Wilma Winey. Mildred Baker, an initiate of Alpha Chi Omega at Southern California

(Epsilon), who had transferred to Drake University, was also regarded as a charter member.

Gertrude Huntoon Nourse (faculty advisor) and Ezza Spencer Pullman (house mother) were also initiated.

It is interesting to note that one of the charter initiates, Ruth Bell, was the daughter of Hill M. Bell, president of Drake University (1903-1918). Bell, during his leadership of the institution, had been a major opponent of fraternities and sororities.

⁶Alpha Chi Omega installed two additional chapters during the month: Alpha Iota (Vermont), June 13; and Alpha Kappa (Oregon), June 22.

⁷The Des Moines Alumnae Club had been organized in 1914—the same year as the formation of Alpha Rho Omega—by several graduates of the Simpson chapter. In 1935, it became Alpha Omicron Alpha alumnae chapter.

⁸Most notably Kappa Alpha Theta and Kappa Kappa Gamma, who along with Chi Omega and Delta Gamma had been installed on April 29-30, 1921.

⁹Harold J. Baily, ed., *Bairds Manual of American*

College Fraternities, fifteenth edition (Menasha, Wisconsin: The Collegiate Press, 1949), p. 328.

¹⁰The Drake chapter of Phi Mu had ceased operations in 1932.

¹¹"The Drake Times-Delphic," October 26, 1933. A chapter alumna went on to state that "we felt that Drake was not large enough to support six national sororities and that there are too many girls who attend Drake for only two years. Because of this it was impossible to instill in them the high standards and ideals of Alpha Chi Omega. We thought it would be best to quit while we owed no debts and had a clear conscience."

¹²*Id.*

¹³However, the October 1949 issue of "Holiday" magazine, which featured an essay on Drake, included a photograph of "a quiet evening at home for the girls in the Alpha Chi Omega House." The picture, complete with its erroneous cutline, was reproduced in Drake's 1981 centennial history.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Ethel Mak Fountain '20, and Leone Moorhead Bressman '21.

Alpha Epsilon Phi

Founded October 24, 1909, at Barnard College. Total charter grants: 79, of which 30 remain active. Total initiates: 34,500. Colors: green and white; flower: the lily-of-the-valley.

The Neonates Club founded fall 1948; recognized as Delta Rho colony November 13, 1950; installed as the 48th or Alpha Omega chapter of Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority October 25, 1952; chapter declared non-operating November 1973.

ALPHA EPSILON PHI'S beginning and end at Drake University are each in one way or another related to discrimination. Following World War II, it became apparent that the increasing numbers of Jewish women at Drake were unable to enjoy the sorority experience due to discrimination against their religious preference; Alpha Epsilon Phi came to fill this void. However, after the passage of

two decades, when sororities became less restrictive in their membership criteria, Alpha Epsilon Phi, ironically enough, was accused of race discrimination in the consideration of a potential member. The publicity from the incident humbled an already weak organization, and soon thereafter, Alpha Epsilon Phi left Drake University.

While no written university or Panhellenic



The establishment of the Neonates Club in 1948 gave Drake women of the Jewish faith the opportunity to participate in the fraternity experience; shown here is the group's membership in the fall of 1950, shortly after it became Delta Rho colony of Alpha Epsilon Phi.

Council policy existed to prevent the pledging of Jewish women in the period following World War II, sororities were, nonetheless, traditionally viewed as "white-Christian" organizations.¹ The university, as a reflection of higher education and society in general, supported this posture of benign separatism; as an example, Drake's administration notified Jewish women who had signed up for the 1946 fall rush week that campus sororities generally did not pledge those of the Hebrew faith.² At many institutions in the country, chapters of traditionally Jewish fraternal organizations were established to fill the social need of those affected. Identifying the demand for such a group at Drake, in the fall of 1947 the Panhellenic Council first discussed the possibility of allowing a Jewish sorority to come onto campus.³ However, no follow-through was taken and the next fall several Jewish women, still functionally unable to enjoy a fraternal experience, established the Neonates Club. Little has been preserved regarding the origins of the Neonates Club, although it is likely that an early objective of the group was to achieve national affiliation. Alpha Epsilon Phi, anxious to increase its chapter roll, soon approached the group about the possibility of becoming a chapter. The Neonates accepted the proposal, and after the November 13, 1950 unanimous approval of the Faculty Committee on Student Activities, Alpha Epsilon Phi Field Secretary Ruth M. Kyman (Upsilon, Akron) was notified that colonization plans could commence.

The colonization procedure of Alpha Epsilon Phi was relatively unconventional compared to the practices of other national sororities. A colony operated much like a local sorority; a group was merely "sponsored" by the national organization, whose involvement was minimal. The Neonates, who chose the name Delta Rho for their colony, were not required to pay dues to Alpha Epsilon Phi, nor were they required to serve a prescribed pledgeship until the national organization had given final approval for subsequent chartering.

Delta Rho was aided in its endeavors, however, by Sara Lazere, an initiate of Alpha Epsilon Phi (Mu, Illinois), who served as the group's advisor. Assisted by Lazere, the sorority sought to become an active part of Greek life at Drake. This goal proved to be a difficult one; even after the passage of two years, Delta Rho was less than a prosperous organization. Although involved in activities on campus, the group was regarded as weak due to its small membership of 13 women. Frus-

trated by a lack of recognition and the absence of encouragement by its national sponsor, Delta Rho requested that Sara Lazere contact Alpha Epsilon Phi in the hopes of speeding up the chartering process. In January 1952, Lazere wrote a detailed letter to Alpha Epsilon Phi Executive Secretary Kaye McLaughlin, outlining the situation at Drake. Lazere pointed out Delta Rho's accomplishments: highest sorority scholarship,⁴ participation in athletic and social events, and involvement in campus activities. Lazere indicated the group's disappointment at what "seems a long time to get a chapter of A. E. Phi," and concluded her appeal by stating that

I realize the problems that confront National in giving a small group like this a chapter. I know that no matter how hard the alumni and national work, it is still up to the girls themselves to accomplish and maintain a good working group. We alumni feel that as long as there are sororities and fraternities at Drake there should be a Jewish one. We can promise you this, we will work with them and do everything we can to make it inviting to Jewish girls. We can watch to see that standards are kept high along with scholarship. The rest is up to the group, but they must have encouragement and see the light ahead.⁵

Lazere's plea evidently had a significant impact on the national sorority, as on March 6, 1952, Delta Rho was formally pledged to Alpha Epsilon Phi. Although the chapter was not actually chartered until the following October, the pledging ceremony signaled the beginning of the installation sequence. Twelve of Delta Rho's 13 members⁶ were present for the ribbon and pin service of Alpha Epsilon Phi which was held in Morehouse Dormitory. Preceded by a dinner in the Rumpus Room of the dorm, the ceremonies were conducted by Irma Loeb Cohen (Rho, Ohio State), national president, and Joan Loewy Cohn, (Sigma, Wisconsin) national treasurer. The evening was concluded with a reception in honor of the pledge group and national officers, held in the lounge of the dormitory.

Previously reluctant to recognize the sorority due to its nebulous status as a "sponsored group," the Drake Panhellenic Council extended membership to Delta Rho colony on March 18, 1952. As a further display of support, or perhaps in the belief that the colony's recruitment of members would not affect the existing sororities, the council voted in May 1952 to give Delta Rho "unlimited [summer] rushing privileges."⁷ Drake's

seven other sororities were required to adhere to strict Panhellenic summer rushing regulations.⁸

During the fall of 1952, the colony secured a residence, which was located at 2625 Carpenter Avenue. It was at the Carpenter Avenue address that Delta Rho became Alpha Omega chapter—and the first Iowa chapter—of Alpha Epsilon Phi on Saturday, October 25, 1952. That evening 13 women were initiated as the charter members of Alpha Omega chapter.⁹ Included were Shelia Wolfe, a 1952 graduate who, during her two terms as president of Delta Rho, had seen it undergo substantial progress; and Eleanor Mandelbaum Friedman, wife of the vice president of Younker Brothers department stores. Present for the installation were National President Irma Loeb Cohen and National Vice President Dorothy Greenblatt Baach (Omicron, Northwestern). A party was held that evening at the Friedman home, 214 Foster Drive, in honor of the new initiates. Guests included national officers and area alumnae of Alpha Epsilon Phi, each of the charter members and their escorts, and several members of the Drake faculty. On Sunday, Alpha Epsilon Phi alumnae prepared a brunch at the chapter house.



This classical looking residence, located at 2718 University, served as Alpha Epsilon Phi's chapter house from 1954-63.

The first five years of Alpha Omega chapter's operation were marked by growth, achievement and increased campus involvement. In the fall of 1954, the sorority negotiated a lease on a Drake-owned property located at 2718 University Avenue. Drake, in a show of support for the new organization, agreed to a lease even though its terms would not generate enough income to cover overhead expenses during the first year of the sorority's occupancy. By 1955 the chapter could report that "with new furniture and 19 pledges, the most we've ever had, our house

is really beaming."¹⁰ In 1957, Alpha Epsilon Phi entered the Sweetheart Sing competition for the first time; that same year Alpha Omega was recognized at the Alpha Epsilon Phi national convention for greatest improvement.

By the fall of 1957, decreasing membership—the result of large graduating classes and the failure to replace them with new members—had become a problem. The spring of 1958 brought with it an indication that by the following fall the chapter would not be able to fill the house to capacity. Hoping to alleviate the situation, Johanna Lichtenfels Abrahams (Chi, Vanderbilt), national vice president of Alpha Epsilon Phi, visited the campus early in February 1958. Abrahams sought to receive assistance from the university, and in a visit with Dean of Students Robert J. Kibbee, made two specific requests: first, that Drake reduce the rent on the property it leased to the sorority; and second, the university allow some of Alpha Epsilon Phi's pledges to move into the chapter home. Kibbee, after consultation with University Business Manager Carl Kasten, notified Abrahams that both requests would be denied. Kibbee pointed out that the property rented by Alpha Epsilon Phi was part of the university's endowment, and as such, there was a duty to receive a reasonable rate of return on its use. Due to the fact that the university had incurred a loss during the first two years of the lease, Kasten did "not feel he [could] make an adjustment within the general responsibilities he [had] for the protection of investment property."¹¹ In response to the request for allowing pledges to move into the chapter house, Kibbee simply replied that the university would strictly adhere to its requirement that freshman women not living at home reside in a dormitory. Yet, in spite of the fact that both requests by Alpha Epsilon Phi had been denied, Kibbee attempted to make it clear that the sorority had the support of the university. Noting the Panhellenic Council's decision that "Alpha Epsilon Phi can undoubtedly rush in any way they think will be profitable," Kibbee added that

I will be happy to call to the attention of anyone you might designate, the existence of the chapter on our campus and urge their cooperation in directing new students to it. I am sure Marjorie Cunningham [assistant dean of students] would also be willing to help in any way she can.¹²

The national office of Alpha Epsilon Phi accepted the university's position, and sur-

mised that "it will just have to be up to the girls themselves, to the Des Moines alumni . . . and our national organization to pull our Alpha Omega chapter back into a firm financial position again."¹³ A recovery of sorts was successfully achieved in the fall of 1958, when the seven returning members of Alpha Omega chapter succeeded in pledging seven women. Later, Johanna Abrahams contacted Drake's administration, stating that "I feel that together we have accomplished a lot."¹⁴ Specifically, Abrahams was grateful for university permission to rent to non-members during the summer and fall semesters and for suspension of rush regulations concerning Alpha Epsilon Phi. The latter concession included approval of a rush weekend during the Drake Relays, which was attended by interested high school women.

Although the overnight gains in membership ensured Alpha Omega's immediate survival, the chapter did not enjoy the achievements that had marked its earlier years. In the period between 1958 and 1966, the chapter placed last in sorority scholarship 14 of 16 semesters; campus involvement became minimal; and rush results remained inconsistent from semester to semester. Yet, in spite of these difficulties, the chapter was able to purchase a residence at 2841 Kingman Boulevard in the fall of 1963. The property could accommodate 19 women.

By the mid-1960s, the future of Alpha Omega appeared to once again be in peril. The chapter's disastrous fall 1966 rush—which netted only three pledges—prompted Dean Cunningham to notify Bernice Stern (Delta, Adelphi), national president of Alpha Epsilon Phi, that

At the opening of the school year [Alpha Omega chapter] had 17 active members . . . Since the current [limitation] on our campus is 67 and many of our chapters have a total larger than that . . . this group does not seem to be holding its own. In a meeting with the individuals [of the chapter] I find them to be negativistic and defeatist and to be bickering among one another, unwilling to work together or to trust one another. While the university has been attempting to help Alpha Epsilon Phi and has been resisting the efforts of another group to colonize on our campus, we are beginning to feel that we cannot continue in the present pattern much longer. There are approximately 125 Jewish women on our campus. Obviously their needs are not being met . . .¹⁵

As a result of the communication, an advisory board, consisting of five Alpha Epsilon

Phi alumnae, was established to give the chapter direction. Until the board's creation, alumnae involvement with Alpha Omega was essentially limited to the guidance supplied by Chapter Advisor Sara Lazere. Lazere, as a result of having been elected national secretary-treasurer of Alpha Epsilon Phi in 1965, found it increasingly difficult to provide the chapter with the level of attention she had provided in earlier years.

With the advent of the advisory board, once again Alpha Epsilon Phi had experienced a problem, adopted a remedy, and achieved success. In the fall of 1967, a pledge class numbering 17 women doubled the size of the chapter. However, under earlier circumstances, the chapter might have had a more impressive rush; while during the first 15 years of its operation Alpha Epsilon Phi had a virtual monopoly over the pledging of Jewish women, the situation had changed. Other sororities had come to tap what had formerly been Alpha Omega's lifeblood, leading Dean Cunningham to conclude that

the Jewish girls who will be pledged by other houses are usually the most outstanding; those who will be leaders and who could really contribute to Alpha Epsilon Phi if they pledged there.¹⁶

Believing Alpha Omega's recent prosperity would lead to permanent stability, alumnae acted to enlarge the capacity of the chapter house. In March 1968, a residence directly east of the chapter home was purchased, with the intent to join the two buildings.¹⁷ Acquired at a cost of \$15,500, the second house was remodeled with a \$15,000 loan from the national sorority. The project began on April 15, 1968; construction was completed by early fall. The enlarged structure could accommodate 30 women.

Experiencing another successful rush in the fall of 1968, Alpha Omega had every reason to believe that success would continue. An unfortunate incident in the spring of 1969, however, would disrupt any hopes Alpha Epsilon Phi had for ever becoming a strong and influential group on the Drake campus. In the late spring of 1969, two sophomore members of Alpha Omega chapter—Judie Sontz '71, and Leslie Mouscher '71—withdrawed their membership from Alpha Epsilon Phi. The reason they gave was that "some of their sorority sisters discriminated against a prospective member because she [was] black."¹⁸ In a notarized statement submitted to the Drake Student Welfare Committee, the two women alleged that the chapter first voted to ask a black rushee to join the

sorority, but a special meeting was subsequently called where "discussion centered about 'implications' involved due to the color of her skin. Girls persistently stated that for the sake of the house they would blackball her. Some girls actually stated that they could not live or be associated with a black," whereupon the bid was withdrawn. The Student Welfare Committee decided to launch an investigation on May 14, 1969, and shortly thereafter the controversy found its way into *The Des Moines Register*. The matter was then referred to the Student Personnel Committee of the Drake University Senate which for the first time faced determining whether a Drake student organization had violated a university anti-discrimination policy which had become effective January 1, 1965. The policy stated that

student organizations shall enjoy full freedom to select their members as long as this selection is based on merit, congeniality, common interests, and special talents. When practice is not in harmony with principle, the university shall employ educational procedures to develop a social climate where policy and practice will be in accord and consistent with full personal freedom and mutual respect.

The university had a great deal at stake in handling the charges against Alpha Omega chapter. The policy, which had been passed by the university senate, was a progressive approach to a highly controversial subject. Discussion on discrimination within social organizations had been an ongoing debate for many years, and support for the policy had not been gathered without a significant struggle. Several social fraternities, who originally declined to sign a statement pledging their compliance with the policy, did so only when they were threatened with the loss of recognition. Thus, a casual disposition of the controversy would have indicated that *de facto* discrimination remained permissible on the Drake campus.

When the Student Personnel Committee convened on Sunday, May 25, 1969 to rule on the complaint against Alpha Epsilon Phi, a great deal of attention was called to the event. "Some students had to set on the floor during part of the hearing because all of the chairs were taken,"¹⁹ and the proceedings, held in the lounge of Old Main, lasted from 2:00 until 10:00 p.m. Sontz and Mouscher—joined by Edie Friedman '71, a third member who had withdrawn her membership—repeated allegations that the rushee had been "rejected because of her color."²⁰ Maxine Petchenick '70, president of Alpha Omega

chapter, denied that race had been a factor in the sorority's decision not to extend membership, and that instead the rushee's personality, attitude, mode of dress, and scholastic record had influenced five members of the sorority to block her pledging; later, ten witnesses corroborated Petchenick's testimony. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Student Personnel Committee, in a closed session, determined that although it could not be certain that race was the primary reason that the rushee was denied membership, it was "convinced that it was a significant consideration."²¹ The committee was particularly critical of "a system by which a ten percent vote of the active membership would result in denying the extension of membership, because of race alone."²² In actuality, Alpha Epsilon Phi had recently amended its bylaws to require a one-third negative vote to eliminate a rushee from further consideration, and many Drake chapters allowed for even a smaller percentage than 10 percent to "blackball" a prospective member. In concluding, the Student Personnel Committee recommended "that the members of Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority house submit to the vice president for student life, a plan for education concerning their civic responsibilities in race relations. . . ."²³

When Dr. Donald V. Adams arrived at Drake University in July 1969 to assume the newly-created position of vice president of student life, one of the first matters requiring his attention was the Student Personnel Committee recommendations relating to Alpha Epsilon Phi. Upon review, Adams instructed the sorority to "submit to me by the first day of classes [your] plan for the education of the chapter."²⁴ The program outline, completed by Alpha Epsilon Phi on September 10, 1969, was commented upon at length by Adams on November 24, 1969. Changes that the sorority had implemented included the selection of new members by a two-thirds majority vote; voting by secret ballot on questions of membership; ruling all mention of race, religion or national origin out of order during membership selection; eliminating the need for alumnae recommendation of a rushee; and inviting all rushees to a minimum of two events. Adams, satisfied with the adjustments, referred to them as "indications of sincere and serious study on the part of the sorority," and added that "from these goals you have established for your sorority will hopefully come an educational program that can be respected and appreciated by all members of the Drake University community."²⁵

With its membership policies in good standing with the university, Alpha Omega stood prepared to resume a normal course of operations. However, sudden and perhaps unpredictable changes which occurred within the Drake Greek community during the 1969-70 school year prevented a return to normalcy. Possibly prompted by a set of tumultuous world events and a nation-wide increase in student activism, Greek affiliation dropped sharply at Drake University. While enrollment remained essentially consistent, the percentage of women students belonging to sororities dropped from 32.6 in 1968 to 24.8 in 1970; fraternities were struck equally hard with affiliation declining from 24.6 percent in 1968 to 16.3 in 1970. The significant decrease in the number of students interested in a Greek lifestyle posed a serious threat to Drake's established chapters, much less to one which had lived a short, inconsistent history.

Despite lack of success in attracting sufficient new members,²⁶ Alpha Epsilon Phi maintained a considerable level of campus and Greek involvement. In 1972, the sorority received the Panhellenic scholarship cup for both the spring and fall semesters, and later received scholastic recognition at its 1973 national convention. But eventually the problems of size and lack of prestige became too much to bear. By January 1973, the university had taken the position that "it is now

obvious they [Alpha Omega chapter] are not going to survive,"²⁷ and had interpreted the situation to be one where "all responsible seem to be waiting for the funeral."²⁸

In announcing the sale of the chapter house in the spring of 1973, National Vice President Josephine Lewis Lane (Pi, Michigan) and Chapter Advisor Sara Lazere indicated that "living arrangements for the chapter for the next year have not been determined. Because of these uncertainties, the chapter is not participating in spring rush."²⁹ The following fall returning members were housed in apartments, precluding the chapter's participation in formal rushing activities. In November 1973, following Alpha Omega's unsuccessful attempt to recruit new members during informal rush, the national office of Alpha Epsilon Phi announced that the chapter would be closed.

An auxiliary, the Alpha Omega Mothers' Club, was organized in 1955; in 1964, the name and nature of the group was changed to the Parents Club. Actively participating in sorority activities and fundraising efforts, the Parents Club of Alpha Omega was recognized as being superior at the 1965, 1967, and 1969 national conventions of Alpha Epsilon Phi.

Alpha Epsilon Phi initiated 230 women during its 21 years of operation at Drake University.

¹In earlier years similar discrimination was experienced by members of the Catholic faith. While not prohibited from membership in sororities, their numbers in such organizations were strictly regulated by quotas.

²Minutes, Drake University Panhellenic Council, September 7, 1946.

³Minutes, Drake University Panhellenic Council, October 8, 1947.

⁴However, the group did not receive the award as they were not an installed chapter of a national organization.

⁵Sara Lazere, to Kaye McLaughlin, January 12, 1952.

⁶Unable to attend the March 6 pledging ceremonies due to a case of measles, a thirteenth member of Delta Rho, Myrna Karp, was pledged the following week by Sara Lazere.

⁷Minutes, Drake University Panhellenic Council, May 21, 1952.

⁸At the time that the privilege of summer rushing was accorded to the colony, there were seven other voting members of the Drake Panhellenic Council. A chapter of Phi Mu was closed at the conclusion of the 1951-52 school year.

⁹The other eleven charter members of Alpha Omega were: Audrey Aronson, Eleanor Bolnik, Barbara Bryant, Alice Grossman, Myrna Karp, Meta Pohn, Nancy Roseman, Carole Rosman, Janet Satlin, Janice Travelin (president), and Arlene Willis.

¹⁰"The Alpha Epsilon Phi Columns," fall 1955, p. 45.

¹¹Robert J. Kibbee, to Johanna L. Abrahams, March 5, 1958. It is possible that the university's position was also influenced by the fact that Alpha Phi—installed at Drake in March 1958—had expressed an interest in the University Avenue property.

¹²Id.

¹³Johanna L. Abrahams, to Robert J. Kibbee, March 10, 1958.

¹⁴Johanna L. Abrahams, to Robert J. Kibbee, December 12, 1958.

¹⁵Marjorie J. Cunningham, to Bernice Stern, December 29, 1966.

¹⁶Marjorie J. Cunningham, to Arthur Casebeer, dean of students, Drake University, January 19, 1968.

¹⁷The house was purchased on contract with \$2000 down. The terms of the agreement stated that "in the event of forfeiture, the buyers agree to close any opening in the existing house which has been made for the purpose of attaching said house to another structure and remove the connecting structure to the lot line."

¹⁸"The Des Moines Register," May 17, 1969.

¹⁹"The Des Moines Register," May 26, 1969.

²⁰Id.

²¹Finding of Fact and Recommendations, *Mousher & Sontz v. Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority*, May 25, 1969.

Alpha Epsilon Phi officially responded to the decision in a searing letter which stated in part that Alpha Omega was "the scapegoat of the Greek system . . . we were unprotected in every way, and we were not helped by the university in any way . . . The whole hearing, from the reports I have received, was a kangaroo court hearing . . . [where] we were made the scapegoat in order that others be whitewashed." Blanche Greenberger, executive secretary, Alpha Epsilon Phi, to Karen Anderson, acting associate dean of students, Drake University, June 6, 1969.

²²Id.

²³Id.

²⁴To Maxine Petchenik, president, Alpha Omega chapter, August 15, 1969.

²⁵In response to the Alpha Epsilon Phi controversy, on November 19, 1969, the Drake University Senate passed a resolution requiring the Office of Student Life to conduct an annual review of all student organizations to determine if *de facto* discrimination was taking place in their membership selection.

²⁶Alpha Omega's membership reached an all-time high of 46 women in 1967. By 1971, membership had fallen below 30, while the average sorority chapter size was 52.

²⁷Donald Adams, to president's staff, December 4, 1972.

²⁸Id., quoting Marjorie Cunningham, assistant to the vice president, student life.

²⁹Undated statement signed by Josephine Lane and Sara Lazere.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Shelia Wolfe, Beth Kersten Saul, and Janet Bolgard Withers, national office manager, Alpha Epsilon Phi.

Alpha Gamma Tau

Founded January 14, 1908, at Drake University. The organization did not operate beyond 1923.



Anna Elizabeth Littler, the sole founder of Alpha Gamma Tau.

ALPHA GAMMA TAU, like the three other local sororities of the period which failed to achieve national affiliation, ceased to operate some 60 years ago. However, Alpha Gamma Tau is unique in that it is gone but not forgotten. For years, students frequenting the Morehouse Dormitory lounge—consciously or otherwise—have passed by a fireplace bearing the sorority's letters. A plaque explaining the origin of the fixture has long since vanished, but the fireplace remains, invoking the memory of a once active Drake social society.

Founded on January 14, 1908, Alpha Gamma Tau was the brain child of Anna Elizabeth Littler '11. In 1914, when Littler died at the age of 24 from encephalitis, a

scholarship was created by the sorority in her memory. Alpha Gamma Tau's sole founder became highly respected within the sorority; even those initiated after her death spoke reverently of her.

In order to comply with the university's prohibition against Greek-letter social societies, Alpha Gamma Tau adopted the public name of the Agate Club.¹ Also adopted was the jonquil as the sorority's flower, and yellow and green as its colors. Unlike other Drake local sororities, from its inception Alpha Gamma Tau was open to women from all colleges and departments. In the fall of 1912 Alpha Gamma Tau's alumnae first organized as a group; a "study club" format evolved into an alumnae association. An alumnae journal, *The Agate*, began regular publication in 1914.

In 1913, Alpha Gamma Tau acquired its first recorded residence, which was located at 2920 Brattleboro Avenue. One year later, following university recognition of local fraternities and sororities, the society made public its Greek-letter name. What remained secret was the meaning behind the letters Alpha Gamma Tau: *All Girls True*.

Alpha Gamma Tau made what would prove to be a mistake in 1915 when it relocated to 3415 Cottage Grove Avenue. During the 1916 Christmas recess, pipes froze and broke in the empty sorority house, causing considerable damage. Repairs were undertaken, and individual assessments levied. Undergraduate members—regardless of whether or not they resided in the house—were reportedly asked to contribute the then outrageous sum of \$35 each. A likely result of this mishap was an unwillingness to again risk such calamity; at the conclusion of the school year, the lease on the sorority's residence was not renewed. Alpha Gamma Tau would not again maintain living quarters

until 1921, when it moved into 4105 Cottage Grove Avenue.²

In February 1920, Drake University gave permission to its local fraternities and sororities to petition national organizations; a scramble ensued, and Alpha Gamma Tau found itself in the unenviable position of not being as prestigious as some of its competitors. The sorority expressed an interest in Pi Beta Phi, but the national apparently gave no consideration to extension at Drake as it already had four active chapters in Iowa.³ Dissension over which national sorority would alternately be considered appears to have fragmented Alpha Gamma Tau's membership: ultimately Kappa Delta was chosen, although there is no record of a petition being submitted.

Uncertain of its future course and unable

to compete with the national sororities which had overtaken the campus, Alpha Gamma Tau ceased operations by the conclusion of the 1923 school year. Curiously enough, that same year plans were begun for the construction of the first dormitory at Drake University. It is thought that Alpha Gamma Tau's alumnae used the balance of the Littler Scholarship Fund to assist in the construction of the building, and in the process, perpetuate their sorority's name. When Women's Dormitory—later posthumously named for Drake President Daniel W. Morehouse—was finally completed in 1931, a fireplace in its lounge made certain that Alpha Gamma Tau would enjoy a small piece of immortality. On its mantle and grate could and still can be found the Greek letters ATT.

¹Between 1907 and 1910, "The Delphic" made reference to the Aget Club. It is unknown if this was the original public name of Alpha Gamma Tau or merely a repeated typographical error.

²The lack of housing did not seem to be a detrimental factor when local sororities began petitioning national organizations. Those groups which later affiliated with Kappa Alpha Theta, Delta Gamma, and Kappa Kappa Gamma likewise did not maintain housing during the period.

³Including Iowa Wesleyan (Iowa Alpha), Simpson

(Iowa Beta), Iowa State (Iowa Gamma), and Iowa (Iowa Zeta). Additionally, Pi Beta Phi had two dormant chapters in Iowa: South Iowa Normal (Iowa Epsilon) and Callanan College (Iowa Lambda), the latter institution having been absorbed by Drake University in 1888.

All six chapters had been established prior to 1890.

This section was written with the assistance of Mildred VanWagner Nichols '13.

Alpha Kappa Alpha

Founded January 16, 1908, at Howard University. Colors: salmon pink and apple green; flower: the tea rose.

A group of students from Drake and Iowa State universities installed as **Eta Tau** chapter June 14, 1973.

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA's establishment of a chapter at Drake University might have never occurred had a group of women calling themselves the Tiakas¹ been less determined to bring the national organization to campus. Founded in 1969, the Tiakas endeavored for four years and encountered numerous setbacks before their goal was reached on June 14, 1973.

In 1968, Donna Lewis '70, was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha by the national organization's local alumnae chapter (Beta Gamma).² The alumnae chapter had occasionally initiated Drake students into the sorority, but such membership did not offer the same attraction to most undergraduates as that in a collegiate chapter; realizing this, Lewis became inspired to form a campus group.

When the university was informed by Lewis of her intent to form a chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, it was not overly enthused by the idea of a predominately black sorority. However, the administration did not make any formal objections, and pledged its approval in the event that 12 women—the number required for recognition by Alpha Kappa Alpha—were secured. Recruitment proved to be inherently difficult as the university's enrollment of black women students, to which Alpha Kappa Alpha was traditionally oriented, was small. Additionally, a Drake chapter of the predominately black sorority Delta Sigma Theta composed of both undergraduates and alumnae had attracted some of the women which otherwise might have considered assisting in the formation of a chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. The number of potential members was also reduced by Alpha Kappa Alpha's requirement of completion of one semester

of study with at least a C-plus scholastic average prior to membership.

Refusing to be overcome with discouragement, Lewis proceeded to form an interest group³ named the Tiakas for purposes of affiliation with Alpha Kappa Alpha. The alumnae of Beta Gamma assisted in the sponsorship of a series of social events and informational meetings, which succeeded in the securing of several women interested in the formation of a chapter. Following Lewis' graduation in December 1970, guidance of the fledgling group was provided by Berniece O'Neil Wright '62, and the other members of Beta Gamma which, incidentally, had changed its name to Iota Zeta Omega due to a ruling by the national sorority.⁴

Efforts directed toward the establishment of a Drake chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha continued. Although only 43 black women were enrolled at Drake University in the spring of 1972, the Tiakas were still able to make significant progress. Recruitment efforts were expanded to include women attending classes at nearby Iowa State University, a practice which the national organization endorsed when one campus did not provide an adequate pool of potential members.

Optimistic that they would soon achieve the 12 women required for chartering, the Tiakas sought the preliminary approval of Alpha Kappa Alpha. In May 1972 an area official, Jewel Freeman, visited the campus to evaluate the group and assist it in the preparation of a petition to be presented before Alpha Kappa Alpha's national convention in the summer. During her inspection, Freeman also met with Marjorie Cunningham, assistant to the vice president of student life, who indicated that "Drake University will be very pleased to have a chapter of Alpha

Kappa Alpha established here."⁵ Shortly thereafter Cunningham apprised the Panhellenic Council of the Tiakas' petitioning of Alpha Kappa Alpha, upon which the council "expressed pleasure in this possibility."⁶ The petition of the Drake group was approved at the national convention that summer, but an installation date was not set, presumably to allow the Tiakas further opportunity to build up their membership.

The Tiakas were installed as Eta Tau chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha on June 14, 1973, in the midst of the sorority's area convention which was held in Des Moines. The charter members consisted of 12 women,⁷ one of whom was enrolled at Iowa State. Four of the 11 Drake initiates had actually graduated the previous month, but returned for ceremonies. The initiation/installation was directed by Dorothy Parker, an area official of Alpha Kappa Alpha, and was conducted at the Hotel Savery.

Only five members of Eta Tau chapter returned to Drake in the fall of 1973. The sorority's first recruitment activity, a tea held on October 7 in Morehouse Dormitory, resulted in the pledging of five women, thus doubling the size of Alpha Kappa Alpha on campus.

Even before the Tiakas had submitted their petition, it was thought that Alpha Kappa Alpha would join the eight campus National Panhellenic Conference sororities

in membership on the Panhellenic Council. Following Eta Tau's installation, this possibility remained open; for two semesters Alpha Kappa Alpha's academic ranking was included in the Panhellenic scholarship standings. The sorority's membership in the council was again discussed in March 1978, but neither the Panhellenic nor Alpha Kappa Alpha acted on the matter. In 1981 Alpha Kappa Alpha, along with four other black Greek-letter social organizations operating on campus, formed the Pan-Hellenic Council; its membership in this body does not affect its eligibility to join the Women's Social Panhellenic Council, should it ever decide to pursue such affiliation.

On January 22, 1983, the annual Alpha Kappa Alpha founders day celebration included the observance of Eta Tau's 10th anniversary, as well as the 50th anniversary of the Des Moines alumnae chapter. Festivities, held at the Hotel Savery, included a speech made by Myra Butts '73, a charter member of Eta Tau, and a musical tribute to the sorority performed by the undergraduate group.

Membership in the Drake chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha has been somewhat erratic, reflecting the trends in black student enrollment at the university. The sorority has continued to initiate Iowa State students, although these women have been few in number. Eta Tau's membership is thought to have peaked at 25 women in 1982.



Drake initiates of Eta Tau chapter, 1982

¹Tiakas is a name commonly utilized by Alpha Kappa Alpha interest groups.

²Beta Gamma was established in 1932 as a "mixed chapter," composed of residents of the city of Des Moines, as well as Drake undergraduate students.

³An interest group is somewhat similar to a local fraternity, but normally such an organization does not adopt its own ritual or other similar traditions. An interest group differs from a colony in that it lacks the sanction of a national fraternity or sorority.

⁴In 1970 Alpha Kappa Alpha's national convention adopted a constitutional amendment requiring that alumnae chapters "shall be named

(whereby) Omega will become the base letter for the name of each chapter."

⁵Marjorie J. Cunningham, to Jewel Freeman, May 11, 1972.

⁶Id.

⁷Jennifer M. Bethel, Brenda Black, Myra L. Butts, Mary L. Chapman, Pierrette E. Green, Linda D. Hodo, Leslie A. Johnson, Alice L. Mapp, Gerthleen Mapp, Justine M. Morton (president), Sibyl Myers, Pamela R. Wallace. Wallace was enrolled at Iowa State University.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Donna Lewis Richardson and Berniece O'Neil Wright.

Alpha Phi

Founded October 10, 1872, at Syracuse University. Total charter grants: 141, of which 103 remain active. Total initiates: 83,100. Colors: bordeaux and silver gray; flowers: the forget-me-not and the lily-of-the-valley.

The Drake colony was organized October 6, 1957; installed as the 63rd or Gamma Omicron chapter of Alpha Phi Fraternity March 1, 1958.

ALPHA PHI's installation of a chapter at Drake University in 1958 might have occurred 35 years earlier had the extension policy of the national sorority been less conservative during the 1920s.¹ The first mention of Alpha Phi at Drake University came in the spring of 1919 when the local sorority Epsilon Tau Sigma—anticipating the suspension of the prohibition against national fraternities and sororities—indicated that it would desire to petition Alpha Phi if the opportunity arose. However, shortly thereafter the Drake group shifted its attention to

other national sororities.² A second Drake local sorority, Omega Delta, expressed a more enduring interest in Alpha Phi and eventually took preliminary steps in the preparation of a prospectus.³ In April 1920 Omega Delta sponsored a luncheon for a visiting delegation of Alpha Phi national officers who were in Des Moines to investigate the Drake campus.⁴ Two months later, following an evaluation of information gathered during the inspection, Alpha Phi decided against Drake University as a possible site for expansion.⁵ The reason behind the sorority's deter-



On the day of their chapter's installation, the charter members of Gamma Omicron posed on the steps leading to the Carpenter Hall lounge.

mination not to come to Drake is open to speculation. Factors which likely contributed to the decision included the absence of collegiate and alumnae Alpha Phi chapters in the state; the comparative lack of status and promise of Omega Delta; and the modest size of the university and its lack of prestige. An opportunity for Alpha Phi to reverse its decision came two years later, at the sorority's 26th national convention. The sorority's extension committee, in a report to the convention, noted that Drake Dean of Women Mary Carpenter Craig highly recommended the campus local sorority Kappa Kappa Upsilon.⁶ In spite of this endorsement, Alpha Phi reaffirmed its position not to include Drake University in any extension efforts; it is unknown if the fact that Kappa Kappa Upsilon had become inactive since the time of Craig's recommendation was a factor.⁷

Between 1920 and 1956 Alpha Phi more than doubled its number of active chapters, indicating that the sorority's extension policy had become more liberal. In recognition of a need for continued growth in order to remain competitive nationally, at its 1956 convention the sorority expressed "a particular interest in expansion in the State of Iowa."⁸ It appears that Alpha Phi's search for a campus on which to organize in Iowa had begun prior to the 1956 convention; the minutes of a September 20, 1955 meeting of the Drake chapter of Delta Gamma noted that "Alpha Phi is looking for a place in Iowa to colonize."

By 1957, an Iowa chapter had become an immediate priority for Alpha Phi.⁹ Executive Secretary Doris R. Corbett (Beta, Northwestern) expressed to the sorority's executive board her belief that "more than ever I realize how necessary it is for Alpha Phi to be in Iowa. Right in the middle of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, and Alpha Phi is not known!"¹⁰ By the spring of 1957 Alpha Phi had investigated extension possibilities at the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, Drake University, Parsons College,¹¹ and Morningside College.

The sorority's first formal contact with Drake University was made on March 29, 1957, when Mary Tracy Swanson (Nu, Nebraska), Alpha Phi's Drake extension chairman, met with Dean of Students Robert J. Kibbee. Swanson was successful in arranging a subsequent meeting between Kibbee and representatives of Alpha Phi.¹² Two weeks later Corbett, joined by Theodosia "T." Snyder Wetherell (Omicron, Missouri), state official; Madeline Girard (Nu),

area alumnae official; and several area alumnae, met with Kibbee and Assistant Dean of Students Marjorie J. Cunningham. Anxious to establish a foothold in Iowa, the sorority representatives inquired into the possibility of a spring colonization. Cunningham responded that approval would need to be secured from the Panhellenic Council before colonization could be considered. Additionally, Kibbee proposed that the sorority wait until after the conclusion of the fall 1957 rushing period, indicating a preference for the "fall rush to be as usual" and further expressing concern that colonization by Alpha Phi might "hurt the groups now on campus."¹³ Recognizing that "we must [colonize] properly and with force,"¹⁴ Corbett wrote to Kibbee that

I balloted the executive board concerning your colonization plan for next fall. They would approve such a plan under the guidance of a transfer or transfers *providing* the dean of women and the Panhellenic is in favor of such an undertaking. We feel it would be an unhappy situation to go on without their approval.¹⁵

The issue of Alpha Phi's proposed establishment at Drake was addressed by the Panhellenic Council on May 22, 1957, at its last meeting of the school year. After a two-hour discussion the governing council granted approval of Alpha Phi's colonization. The vote was not unanimous: two of the seven member sororities opposed the addition of another chapter to the campus.¹⁶

In a letter dated May 23, 1957, Dean Kibbee notified Doris Corbett of the decision and noted that "the Panhellenic group is now working on a set of principles which it feels should govern the colonization effort."¹⁷ Alpha Phi alumnae were notified of the colonization plan in a August 30, 1957, newsletter from Mary Swanson and T. Wetherell which said in part that

Alpha Phi is colonizing at Drake with the help of two lovely girls, Marietta Alexander of Omaha, a junior from our Colorado University [Beta Gamma] chapter and Pat Warner of Dakota City, Nebraska, a junior from the University of Nebraska.

The newsletter explained that while Alpha Phi would not be permitted to begin colonization prior to the conclusion of formal rush "we hope to start . . . soon thereafter," and appealed to alumnae to aid in the recruitment process by contacting "any girls going to Drake from your locality to promote and sell Alpha Phi." Swanson and Wetherell concluded by stating that

We apologize for this haste but our national executive board only this week was able to interest these two girls in coming to Drake. We would not have been allowed to form a chapter without them so we felt it useless to alert you sooner.

Marietta Alexander '59, and Barbara "Pat" Warner '60, arrived on campus at the start of the fall 1957 term.¹⁸ Both were recruited by Alpha Phi and were awarded \$1000 scholarships by the sorority. The two women secured a room in Carpenter Dormitory and immediately began an informal recruitment process to attract women to the new group.

Alpha Phi's first formal rush party was held on Saturday, October 6, 1957, in the administration lounge of Old Main. Thirty Alpha Phi's from the University of Nebraska chapter¹⁹ assisted Madeline Girard, Marietta Alexander, Pat Warner and local alumnae at the event. Also present was Field Secretary Janet M. Matson (Beta), who was visiting Drake to assist with recruitment for the new colony. In a follow up report to the Alpha Phi executive office Matson related that

Only one thing happened to put a damper on the party. One of the rushees slammed the car door on Marietta's thumb and she passed out; [but] the rushee pledged later, so it was no tragedy.²⁰

A total of three pledges were secured at the conclusion of the rush function.

Alexander and Warner continued their recruitment efforts, individually visiting the rooms of unaffiliated women, then organizing small group meetings in their own dorm room. Finally the two arranged to have informal gatherings in the homes of alumnae, in order to "give the alums an opportunity to see and talk with the rushees too."²¹

In mid-October 1957, the seven women that had been obtained during the early recruitment efforts were formally pledged to Alpha Phi at the home of Margaret A. Venell (Beta Epsilon, Arizona), 4056 Ashby Avenue. Held in conjunction with the Des Moines alumnae chapter's²² founders day meeting, the ceremony was followed by a presentation on the history of the national organization.

The colony, while small in size, immediately began to integrate itself into campus life. Regular meetings were held in the fourth floor lounge of Carpenter Dormitory. A series of social activities were organized and the group made plans for participation in Sweetheart Sing and other traditional events. Campus fraternities and sororities welcomed the new colony by offering the use of their

chapter houses for Alpha Phi functions, and by inviting members of the group to dinners and exchanges. Recruitment efforts were continued, and by mid-November the colony had attracted the requisite 15 women (including Alexander and Warner) necessary for voting membership in the Panhellenic Council.²³ Participation in the spring 1958 rush netted the Alpha Phi colony one additional pledge; the campus average for the rushing period was three women. Informal recruiting procedures were resumed for the remainder of the semester.

Installation ceremonies for Gamma Omicron, the first Alpha Phi chapter in Iowa, began on Saturday, March 1, 1958, when 15 women were initiated as charter members.²⁴ Held at the Waveland Park Masonic Temple, 1117 42nd Street, the initiation was conducted by officers and members of the University of Nebraska chapter. Des Moines alumnae then served a luncheon in the temple dining room, followed by a model meeting demonstration given by members of the University of South Dakota (Psi) chapter. That same evening the initiation banquet and installation service were held in the Wedgewood Room of the Hotel Fort Des Moines. Approximately 75 initiates of Alpha Phi were in attendance, including Margaret Whitlock Barton (Beta), national vice president; Elinor Smith Davis (Gamma, DePauw), director of extension; Ethelle Bowere Lenihan (Psi, South Dakota), area official; Madeline Girard and Doris Corbett. Undergraduate representatives from the University of Missouri (Epsilon) were also present, as were delegates from Nebraska and Iowa alumnae organizations.

On Sunday, March 2, the Des Moines alumnae chapter was hostess at a reception, also held in the Wedgewood Room of the Hotel Fort Des Moines, for visiting dignitaries, parents, Drake fraternity and sorority representatives, and faculty. Also present was Florence Tomlinson Myers, a 1926 Drake graduate and past national president of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Immediately after its installation, rushing for the new sorority was resumed, with most rush functions held at St. Lukes Church, 3424 Forest Avenue. By the conclusion of the school year Gamma Omicron's membership had reached 20 women. The chapter's first formal dinner dance was held in April 1958 at the Standard Club.

Continuing an on-going search for housing, Alpha Phi alumnae initially planned to lease a home for the chapter's use. Learning of the possibility that Alpha Epsilon Phi

would be unable to continue to fill the house it rented from the university at 2718 University Avenue, Alpha Phi expressed an interest in the property.²⁵ Alumnae of Alpha Epsilon Phi, perhaps fearful that the loss of housing would severely handicap the already struggling chapter, ultimately decided to renew their lease.



The Des Moines Register

The little house which created big problems, including a 1959 decision by the Iowa Supreme Court—against Alpha Phi.

By April 1958, Alpha Phi representatives were able to locate a three-story house for sale at 1236 34th Street; the home was, however, located in an area which had been zoned for use by one and two family residences. Alpha Phi petitioned the Des Moines City Council to rezone the property for use as a multiple residential dwelling in order that the house might subsequently be purchased and legally occupied by the sorority. Several public hearings regarding the petition were held and each were marked by long and often heated debates. Neighbors residing on 34th Street between Forest and University avenues raised strenuous objections to the possibility that another fraternity might be allowed into the neighborhood. Three such groups were already housed on the block, each either having established their residences before that area had been zoned for one and two family occupancy, or by obtaining a variance.²⁶ Objectors displayed signs stating that "we want to keep our street residential" and "89% oppose" at the council meetings.

In June 1958 the city council, upon the recommendation of the city Plan and Zoning Commission, voted 4 to 1 to grant Alpha Phi a variance from the zoning ordinance. A subsequent resolution that the entire block be rezoned was referred to the Plan and Zoning

Commission; the resolution was defeated two months later.

Purchasing the home and a carriage house²⁷ located on the property at an initial cost of \$29,500, the sorority invested an additional \$16,000 in remodeling and furnishings for its first property. Twenty members of Alpha Phi—four short of the residence's capacity—lived in the house in the fall of 1958. That same fall 22 women were pledged to Alpha Phi; the only sorority to pledge more women was Kappa Alpha Theta, who attracted 24 pledges.

Upset with the city council's decision to rezone the address, 11 families²⁸ all property owners living on 34th Street—filed suit in the Polk County District Court in an attempt to block the rezoning. When the district court upheld the zoning, the plaintiffs appealed to the Iowa Supreme Court which ruled in July 1959 that the zoning change was arbitrary and invalid as it created an illegal "spot zone."²⁹ The high court's decision voided the city council's June 1958 action; Alpha Phi was in non-conformance with the city's zoning laws. Initially it seemed that the plaintiffs—the 11 families filing suit against the zoning—had won the battle. The victory, however, would be a brief one for those who opposed fraternities' and sororities' "effect on the neighborhood."³⁰ Following the supreme court's decision, the city council asked the Plan and Zoning Commission for its recommendation on whether to rezone the entire block in question. On August 20, 1959 the Plan and Zoning Commission voted to recommend that the city council rezone all of 34th Street between Forest and University avenues to permit usage by multiple residences. If approved, the recommendation would affect not only Alpha Phi—who had over \$45,000 invested in its 34th Street home—but also Theta Chi and Kappa Kappa Gamma, who had each located properties they wished to occupy within the block. The city council's endorsement of the rezoning recommendation would pave the way for 34th Street to become "Greek Street."

On Tuesday, September 8, 1959, the Des Moines City Council gave final passage to the proposed revision; both sides of 34th Street between Forest and University avenues would be rezoned multiple residential. Council member Florence Tomlinson Myers, who had been supportive of the sorority's plight throughout the controversy, made the motion for approval of the recommendation.³¹ The effect of the victory was a significant one not only for Alpha Phi but for nearly all of Drake's fraternities and sorori-

ties: by 1964 10 of the university's 17 Greek organizations had chapter houses on the block. In 1983 all but one of Drake's 15 fraternities and sororities which maintained housing had 34th Street addresses.³²

By the end of Gamma Omicron's first full year as a chapter, the group had grown to the campus limitation of 60 women. Finding its chapter home too small for a rapidly growing membership, in the fall of 1960 work was begun on a \$40,000 addition to the existing residence. Completed over a period of four months, the addition increased the chapter house capacity to 40 women; the addition also provided the sorority with a chapter library.

In the fall of 1960 Gamma Omicron initiate Barbara Whiteside transferred to the University of Iowa. Whiteside, along with two other Alpha Phi initiates, had been recruited by the national sorority to transfer to the university in order to serve as organizers of a new chapter.³³ Gamma Omicron provided additional assistance by planning and attending rush functions at the University of Iowa. When the Iowa colony was installed in April 1961, the Drake and Nebraska chapters of Alpha Phi performed the initiation of its charter members.³⁴

Within two years of its installation, Gamma Omicron had become well known for its campus spirit and involvement. Sorority members headed a variety of organizations, and the chapter was recognized for first place campus scholarship, first place in homecoming decorations, and first place in Sweetheart Sing.³⁵ The trend continued throughout the remainder of the decade; from spring 1965-spring 1967 Gamma Omicron

had a monopoly on the scholarship trophy; in 1968 the sorority again won the Sweetheart Sing competition. Burgeoning membership had again made the chapter house cramped and in 1966 another addition—designed to increase capacity by 15 women—was discussed. The proposed \$80,000 addition would never materialize, however, and the sorority instead leased a property at 1240 34th Street, located directly north of the chapter home. The property served as an annex until 1972 when it was razed and the present chapter house was constructed on the lot. In 1969 Alpha Phi won the first annual Greek Week Participation Award;³⁶ in 1970 and 1971 Alpha Phi received the Greek Excellence Award.³⁷

In 1971 Gamma Omicron once again began to seriously consider the possibility of a chapter house addition. Upon consultation with Phyllis Sims Selig (Gamma Delta, Kansas), national housing officer, the sorority decided to "try a new concept in fraternity living—a house which contains separate apartment units with central living and dining facilities."³⁸ Completed in time for occupancy late in the fall of 1972, the air conditioned chapter house contains 14 apartments (one of which was designed for use by a house mother), central living and dining areas, kitchen, and a basement in which a study area and chapter room are located.³⁹ The house, which can accommodate 52 women, was dedicated on October 13, 1972.⁴⁰ The sorority's living arrangement was made even more novel when, in 1975, the services of a husband/wife pair were secured to fill the house mother's role; traditionally the position had been filled by an older (often



The Alpha Phi ensemble from the 1964 Sweetheart Sing competition.

widowed) woman. A porch was added to the front of the chapter house during the summer of 1981.

Attracting an impressive pledge class of 31 women in the fall of 1977, an incident which occurred the following semester would tarnish the image of the largest sorority at Drake University. On March 7, 1978, three women were arrested outside a local discount department store and charged with shoplifting. Two of the three women—all of whom were initiates of Gamma Omicron—"told police that the incident was all part of a sorority prank."⁴¹ Coincidentally, Judy Wiltaker Homes (Nu), area official, happened to be at Drake on a regular chapter visit; the three women were immediately placed on probation by the sorority, pending disposition of civil charges. Indicating to Vice President of Student Life Donald Adams that she was "greatly distressed that two of the girls indicated this was part of a sorority prank," National President Phyllis Selig concluded that "careful investigation by Mrs. Holmes can substantiate absolutely no grounds for such statements nor find any degree of chapter involvement."⁴² Two months after the arrests, the three women resigned their memberships in Alpha Phi.

By 1979 any ill effect the shoplifting incident may have had on the sorority's membership recruitment had disappeared, and once again Alpha Phi could claim the largest sorority pledge class—21 women—on the campus. While Gamma Omicron's reputation for involvement had diminished significantly since the mid-1970s, the sorority nonetheless had maintained its impressive size, and until 1981 it was the largest group on campus. Unfortunately, Gamma Omicron's scholastic record was not as impressive as its size. From 1976 to 1981 the chapter consistently ranked last in campus scholarship. The situation was further aggravated when only seven of 21 women in the fall 1982 pledge class achieved the 2.0 grade point average necessary for initi-

ation. In spring 1983 area official Susan Graupner (Nu) placed the group on scholastic probation, the conditions of which included a curtailment of most social activities and a strict program of study tables. The chapter was removed from probation the following semester, with the stipulation that scholarship must become a chapter priority.



Gamma Omicron initiate Melissa Bach joined four other members of the Drake fraternity-sorority community on the cover of the winter 1984 Alpha Phi Quarterly.

Gamma Omicron initiates who have served the sorority on the national level include Della Corrine "Corry" Mack Doty '67, national vice president, 1974-1978, and fraternity trustee since 1980; and Susan Murphy '79, field secretary, 1979-80.

During its 25 years at Drake University, Alpha Phi has initiated 581 women.

¹Alpha Phi's extension policy was extremely conservative in comparison to the practices of the sororities which initially established chapters at Drake. The four "first" sororities (all were installed in the same weekend in April 1921) had granted at least 40 charters each by 1920. Alpha Phi had chartered 24 chapters by 1920, having adopted a custom of establishing only one additional chapter per year.

²The minutes of Epsilon Tau Sigma, April 7, 1919, indicate that "again nationals were discussed. Alpha Phi held sway. Straw vote held Alpha Phi, 10; Theta, 3." A subsequent meeting,

on April 14, 1919, led to "more talk on Alpha Phi." The local eventually became Gamma Theta chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

³Omega Delta's interest in Alpha Phi was also noted in "The Phi Alpha of Sigma Alpha Epsilon," December 1920, p. 313.

At least one other Drake local sorority, Alpha Rho Omega, is known to have considered approaching Alpha Phi for a charter.

⁴According to the minutes of the 26th Biennial Convention of Alpha Phi Fraternity, 1922, p. 63, Drake was also visited in 1921.

⁵Bonnie Marshall, Kappa Alpha Theta to Mrs. Huffman, Kappa Alpha Theta, June 6, 1920.

⁶Minutes, 26th Biennial Convention of the Alpha Phi Fraternity, 1922, p. 63.

⁷Thirty schools were recommended to Alpha Phi by its extension committee in 1922; all thirty were refused by the fraternity.

⁸Minutes, Biennial Convention of Alpha Phi Fraternity, 1956, p. 47. Alpha Phi's objective of continued national growth was realized during the 1956-58 biennium: seven chapters and one colony were established during the period.

⁹Identifying the State of Iowa as a crucial field for extension, in a report to the Alpha Phi Executive Board dated April 25, 1957, Doris Corbett, indicated that "I do wish that in the case of Iowa we could go into a fine old institution and a small one at the same time."

¹⁰Doris Corbett, to the Alpha Phi Executive Board, April 25, 1957.

¹¹Founded in 1875 as a Presbyterian affiliated liberal arts institution, financial and enrollment problems caused the demise of Parsons College in June 1973. The campus, located in Fairfield, Iowa, subsequently became the Maharishi International University. Parsons College had first become open to national fraternities in 1951, when a chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon was installed.

¹²Drake University Director of Public Relations and Development Robert L. Stuhr, impressed with Alpha Phi's reputation and sympathetic to the sorority's desire to establish in Iowa, actively encouraged other university officials to grant Alpha Phi's request to colonize. Stuhr, a 1939 graduate of Drake University, was an initiate of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

¹³Doris Corbett, to the Alpha Phi Executive Board, April 25, 1957.

¹⁴Id.

¹⁵Doris Corbett, to Robert Kibbee, May 20, 1957.

¹⁶The Drake chapters of Chi Omega and Delta Zeta were opposed to colonization by Alpha Phi.

¹⁷Initially the Panhellenic stipulated that 10 Alpha Phi initiates would need to transfer to Drake before the new group would be allowed to vote in the governing council. This requirement was eventually revised so that the sorority "must have 15 members, including their two transfers, of which 8 must be upperclassmen before they will be allowed to vote in Panhellenic." Minutes, Drake University Panhellenic Council, September 25, 1957.

¹⁸Alpha Phi adopted a procedure of colonization whereby undergraduate members were recruited to transfer to the university where a colony was being established. The transfer members, in con-

junction with area alumnae, oversaw the colonization.

¹⁹Alumnae and collegiates of the Nebraska chapter—the nearest chapter to Des Moines—played a vital role in the establishment of the Drake colony. Nebraska was frequently referred to as Gamma Omicron's "sponsor." The Nebraska chapter likewise took an active part in Alpha Phi's colonization at the University of Iowa in 1961.

²⁰Janet Matson, to Alpha Phi Executive Office, November 1, 1957.

²¹Id.

²²The Alpha Phi Des Moines alumnae chapter was organized in 1945.

²³Alpha Phi was accorded full voting membership in the Drake Panhellenic Council on November 20, 1957. Prior to that date the group was allowed speaking privileges only.

²⁴Charter members included: Marion Billet, Janice Bowers, Mary Jo Chamberlain, Mary Jane Harvey, Marcia Hill, Kaye Hiron, Karmon Kahl, Marsha Kenny, Sandra Kruchten, Elaine Lowell, Eva Lundby, Judith McCoy, Judith Owen, Rita Reckling, and Judy Struthers. Marietta Alexander had served as colony president; Judith Owen was pledge class president. Barbara Warner was the first chapter president.

²⁵Doris Corbett, to Mary Swanson, March 14, 1958.

²⁶Sigma Alpha Epsilon had been located at 1235 34th Street since 1934; Alpha Xi Delta at 1320 34th Street since 1939; and Kappa Alpha Theta at 1335 34th Street since 1947.

²⁷The carriage house, razed in 1963, was the setting for many Alpha Phi "barn parties" and other social events.

²⁸Included in the list of plaintiffs was Carl A. Kasten, 1302 34th Street, who was the business manager for Drake University from 1950 until his death in 1983.

²⁹The case can be found at 97 N.W. 2d 893 (1959). Interestingly, the District Judge who heard the case was Russell Jordan, an initiate of Alpha Tau Omega who was instrumental in the establishment of a chapter of his fraternity at Drake. An *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) brief was filed by Charles F. Wennerstrum, an early initiate of the Drake local fraternity Gamma Sigma Kappa.

³⁰"The Des Moines Register," June 23, 1958. One objector to the rezoning of the 34th Street property, Mrs. Robert Harris, indicated that "many times, we've had to pick up beer cans from our yards and if the sorority comes in, we'll have more of it." Another area resident, Dr. William E. Shepard, expressed distress over the number of cars parked on 34th Street at night.

³¹In a letter dated April 21, 1958, T. Wetherell

indicated to Doris Corbett that "we set up a meeting with Florence Myers and she said she would definately be for getting us the house and she knew that another member of the council would follow her advice."

³²Sigma Chi has owned a home located at 3305 Forest Avenue since 1979.

³³The other two organizers of Delta Epsilon chapter were Barbara Hague (Rho, Ohio State), and Cynthia Selchert (Psi, South Dakota).

³⁴The University of Iowa chapter (Delta Epsilon) was installed on April 15, 1961, with 32 undergraduates and 10 alumnae charter members.

³⁵Sweetheart Sing was held twice during the 1960 calendar year; Alpha Phi won the award for the latter performance.

³⁶Awards have been made intermittently throughout the last decade and a half for Greek Week participation.

³⁷The name of the award was changed in 1971 to the "Greek Involvement Award." Winners were chosen by a committee of students and administrators on the basis of Greek, campus, and community involvement. For several years it was deemed the highest campus award a chapter could receive. The award was discontinued in 1978.

³⁸"The Alpha Phi Quarterly," spring 1973, p. 42.

³⁹Initial plans for the chapter house also included underground parking for eight cars. This feature was eliminated from the finished structure.

⁴⁰While the novel apartment-style house has proven to be popular with the many women who have occupied it since 1972, the unique residence may eventually be deemed as detrimental to members' studies. While Gamma Omicron's scholarship record was notable for its first 14 years of existence, the fall 1972 semester signaled the start of a converse trend, one that would find the chapter in the bottom half—and frequently, the bottom quartile—of campus scholarship standings for each subsequent semester except one.

⁴¹"The Des Moines Register," March 8, 1978.

⁴²Phyllis Selig, to Donald Adams, March 11, 1978. The letter was read to the Panhellenic Council at Selig's request.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Barbara Warner Hopton, Shelly Coletta '84, Judith McCoy Lawson '59, G. Jo Fuller Carlson '63, Janice Bowers Moore, '59, and Mary Lickerman, administrative assistant, Alpha Phi national office.

Alpha Sigma Alpha

Founded November 15, 1901, at State Normal School (now Longwood College). Total charter grants: 98, of which 49 remain active. Total initiates: 37,100. Colors: pearl white and crimson; flowers: the narcissus and the aster.

The Grade Club founded October 1916; installed as the 24th or Iota Iota chapter of Alpha Sigma Alpha January 14, 1922. Chapter declared non-operating 1936.

ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA, although founded in 1901 as a social sorority, spent much of the first half of its history limiting extension to "teacher's colleges, departments, and colleges of education in universities."¹ Typical of the groups which became chapters of Alpha Sigma Alpha during this period was the Grade Club, a social/professional organization founded in 1916 in the Drake University College of Education. In 1936—fourteen years after the Grade Club became Iota Iota chapter—the Drake group fell victim to hard economic times and dwindling membership. The failure on this campus, coupled with frustrated efforts elsewhere, may have contributed to Alpha Sigma

Alpha's decision to return to the intent of its founders to operate as a general sorority. This was completed when the organization was accorded full membership status in the National Panhellenic Conference in 1951.²

In the fall of 1916, there were no student organizations within the Drake College of Education.³ Dean William F. Barr, assisted by Grade Department Director Bonnie Andrews, attempted to fill the void by creating the Grade Club. Beginning in October 1916, membership in the Grade Club was available to any woman enrolled in the College of Education who desired to "combine, socially and departmentally, into an interested organization for the study of such prob-



The membership of Alpha Sigma Alpha—Drake's sometime social sorority, sometime professional education sorority—in 1923.

lems that occur in [instructional] work."⁴ As a professional society, the organization was able to avoid direct competition with social sororities; in fact, a number of Grade Club members were also initiates of social sororities. The Grade Club enjoyed steady growth, although in the early 1920s a segment of its membership expressed dissatisfaction with the organization's structure and began seeking affiliation with a national education sorority. Equal numbers were opposed to such a move, feeling that it would create a "tendency towards exclusiveness."⁵

Approximately half of the Grade Club's membership—14 women—decided to independently petition Alpha Sigma Alpha. The request for affiliation was accepted, and on Friday, January 13, 1922, the installation sequence began with a ribbon pledging service in the Rose Room of the Hotel Chamberlain. The following morning 23 women were initiated as the charter members of Iota Iota chapter.⁶ Following a luncheon at the Green Mill, located in the basement of the Hotel Chamberlain, the charter was presented, officers were installed, and the "Mother-Patroness"⁷ degree was conferred upon Carrie Barr, wife of the dean of the Drake College of Education; Annie Holmes, wife of the president of Drake University; Mrs. Carl Franzen, wife of the Drake professor in the College of Education; and Alice Peak, a Des Moines socialite and wife of the insurance leader. The installation was concluded with a banquet in the Ivory Room of the Hotel Chamberlain. Among those in attendance were Wilma Wilson (Zeta Zeta, Central Missouri State), national registrar-elect; Edna McCarty (Beta Beta, Colorado State), supervisor of chapter activities; faculty advisors of chapters located at Central Missouri State, Northeast Missouri State (Alpha Beta), Kansas State/Emporia (Epsilon Epsilon), and representative from the undergraduate chapter located at Northeast Missouri State.

During the fourteen years which followed, Alpha Sigma Alpha's contribution to campus life was relatively undistinguished. Perhaps the most interesting incident in Alpha Sigma Alpha's history was its temporary acceptance in the Panhellenic Council. Although allowed to take a seat on the governing council, Iota Iota did so on the condition that it "would withdraw when another sorority of the College of Education was founded."⁸ At the time of Iota Iota's installation, the Panhellenic Council was composed of social sororities in addition to three professional groups⁹ representing the College of Fine Arts; by 1923, it appeared somewhat anom-

olous that the three professional sororities were exercising influence upon decisions affecting social sororities, and they were excluded from the council. Alpha Sigma Alpha was retained, apparently because it was the only social/professional sorority in the College of Education. When Pi Kappa Sigma,¹⁰ a national education sorority, was installed at Drake on May 28, 1925, Alpha Sigma Alpha was requested to honor its pledge and withdraw from the Panhellenic Council. When the Women's Professional Panhellenic Council was organized in April 1926, Alpha Sigma Alpha joined two other education sororities and three sororities from the College of Fine Arts as a founding member.

Alpha Sigma Alpha's relationship with Drake's social sororities was an amicable one; competition for members was minimal and some women belonged to both organizations simultaneously. The Grade Club—which had survived in spite of the mass exodus of its members who sought national affiliation—likewise invited women from Drake's "general" sororities.¹¹ Ironically, in 1936 the Grade Club would pass out of existence, the same year in which its offshoot, Alpha Sigma Alpha, left the campus.

In the fall of 1925 Alpha Sigma Alpha first acquired housing, which was located at 1081 25th Street. A year later the residence was relinquished, and it was not until the fall of 1929 that the membership of Alpha Sigma Alpha again maintained common quarters, when a residence was acquired at 2901 Rutland Avenue. Shortly thereafter the effects of the Depression were brought to bear on the chapter. Already handicapped by a leadership drain resulting from the large percentage of its members enrolled in the two-year vocation programs, Alpha Sigma Alpha experienced the loss of many of its initiates who had become unable to pay tuition. In 1933 the chapter house was vacated and its furnishings sold; meetings of the sorority continued to be held until 1936 when the chapter became inactive.

In 1967 Alpha Sigma Alpha expressed an interest in reviving Iota Iota chapter.¹² At the time, however, the colonization of Gamma Phi Beta was being undertaken and the university did not seriously consider the possibility of the chapter's reinstallation.

Iota Iota, in spite of its brief lifespan, provided a number of alumnae volunteers for the national sorority. Leona Wilcox '19, served as supervisor of standards from 1926-28, and was a member of the national board of directors from 1928-36. Mabel I. Payne '18,

was supervisor of extension in 1923; Nellie L. Gabrielson '24, served as supervisor of programs from 1928-30.

Alpha Sigma Alpha initiated 147 women during its 14 years at Drake University.

¹John Robson, editor, *Bairds Manual of American College Fraternities*, seventeenth edition (Menasha, Wisconsin: The Collegiate Press, 1963), p. 395.

²In November 1947, Alpha Sigma Alpha was admitted to the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) as an associate member. Simultaneously five other groups which had previously composed the Association of Educational Sororities were granted the same status by the NPC: Alpha Sigma Tau, Delta Sigma Epsilon, Pi Kappa Sigma, Sigma Sigma Sigma, and Theta Sigma Upsilon.

³However, Gamma Delta Phi had been founded in 1909 as a social organization for those women enrolled in the College of Education's Primary Department. In 1913 it opened its membership to women outside the study of education. Gamma Delta Phi became Rho Beta chapter of Chi Omega in 1921.

⁴*The Quax*, Drake University, 1918, unnumbered.

⁵*The Quax*, Drake University, 1924, p. 281.

⁶Undergraduate members included Margaret Bork, Cleo Brown, Edith Cain, Grace M. Davis (president), Elizabeth Dodson, Arline Elliott, Florence Harley, Zela Hyten, Albertine Ringrose, Stella Schalk, Lela Steinger, Inga Tesdahl, Leona Welch, and Myrtle Wolford. Alumnae initiates included Norma Campbell Adkins, Bonnie Andrews (faculty advisor), Louise M. Boller, Lillian Heathershaw, Margaret Meek, Edna A. Par-

sons, Mabel Payne, Mayfred E. Stone, and Leona Wilcox.

⁷The degree functionally made the women alumnae affiliates of the sorority, requiring of them supervision of the chapter.

⁸"The Drake Times-Delphic," October 8, 1925.

⁹Including Zeta Phi Eta (professional speech and drama) Mu Phi Epsilon (professional music) and Sigma Alpha Iota (professional music).

¹⁰Sigma chapter of Pi Kappa Sigma became inactive in 1932. Pi Kappa Sigma was absorbed by Sigma Kappa on May 15, 1959.

¹¹To some extent, Alpha Sigma Alpha and the Grade Club competed against each other. Although Alpha Sigma Alpha publicly traced its origins to the Grade Club, the Grade Club apparently did not care to be identified with what it considered its illegitimate offshoot. By 1931, the Grade Club, which included several men in its membership, had convinced itself that it was founded in 1922 as the "P.L.E. Plelades Club", with a name change to the "Grade Club" made in 1924.

¹²Marjorie J. Cunningham, associate dean of students, Drake University, to Lynn Peters Fontaine, extension director, Alpha Sigma Alpha, January 26, 1968.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Barbara Bain, office manager, Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority.

Alpha Xi Delta

Founded April 17, 1893, at Lombard College (now part of Knox College). Total charter grants: 156, of which 97 remain active. Total initiates: 82,500. Colors: light blue, dark blue, and gold; flower: the pink rose.

Iota Alpha Omega founded October 14, 1909; installed as the 32nd or **Alpha Iota** chapter of Alpha Xi Delta Fraternity September 10, 1921. Chapter declared non-operating May 1976.

ALPHA XI DELTA left Drake University on May 15, 1976, and has yet to return. Although the failure of a sorority on this campus is not particularly noteworthy—seven such organizations have come and gone over the years, including one which was reinstalled only to once again become inactive¹—Alpha Xi Delta is unique in that its death was preceded by a long and successful life.

The Drake chapter of Alpha Xi Delta had its beginnings in the local sorority Iota Delta Omicron, which was founded on October 14, 1909.² Established shortly after the trustee's

ruling recognizing "social clubs" but prohibiting them from assuming names based upon "the unrelated letters of some alphabet,"³ publicly the sorority became known as Idono. When the prohibition was lifted in 1914, the Greek-letter identity of Iota Delta Omicron was unveiled, with the sorority adopting the abbreviated name of I.D.O. What remained a closely guarded secret was the actual meaning behind the three letters; known only to its members, Iota Delta Omicron stood for *Ideals, Devotion, and Optimism*.

Initially, Iota Delta Omicron enjoyed a somewhat tenuous existence, with its mem-



The women of Alpha Iota, shortly after their chapter became the sixth national sorority at Drake University.

bership among the smallest of the women's social groups. By 1911 the sorority's operations appear to have stabilized, as it was extended (and subsequently accepted) an invitation to join the Inter-Club Conclave, forerunner of the Panhellenic Council.⁴ In 1914, Iota Delta Omicron first obtained housing when it began renting a residence located at 1134 25th street. Two years later, the house was relinquished.⁵ In 1916, the sorority gained credibility within the Drake Greek community after moving from the bottom to the top of the sorority scholastic standings. In the same year, the sorority changed its colors from red and white to crimson and white, and its flower from the red carnation to the American Beauty Rose.

In February 1920 the university announced that local fraternities and sororities would at last be permitted to affiliate with national groups; Iota Delta Omicron immediately determined that such affiliation would be in its best interests. Apparently the local sorority first courted Alpha Omicron Pi,⁶ and later several other national organizations. In the fall of 1920—possibly in an attempt to impress those nationals then considering Drake for purposes of extension—Iota Delta Omicron obtained its first housing in four years, located at 1210 21st Street. Yet following the installation of the first five national groups on campus in the spring of 1921, the sorority remained without a prospect for affiliation. Attention was turned to Alpha Xi Delta, to which Iota Delta Omicron submitted a 55-page petition in the spring of 1921.⁷ The petition was accepted by the national sorority shortly thereafter.

Because Alpha Xi Delta was to become the sixth national sorority to place a chapter at Drake University—the first four having done so on the same memorable weekend in April 1921—installation of Iota Delta Omicron as Alpha Iota chapter was not accorded the same fanfare which had marked such previous affairs. Local newspaper coverage proved to be minimal, and the festivities surrounding the event would appear austere in comparison to earlier campus charterings.

The installation sequence began on the morning of Saturday, September 10, 1921, when a pledging ceremony was held in the ballroom of Hoyt Sherman Place (the Des Moines Women's Club), 15th Street and Woodland Avenue. Following a luncheon, 37 undergraduate and alumnae members of Iota Delta Omicron were initiated into Alpha Xi Delta.⁸ Officiating over the ceremonies were Lulu Runge (Theta, Wisconsin), national treasurer of Alpha Xi Delta, and Myrtle Jones

Stevens (Mu, Minnesota), national inspector. The two women were assisted by the Des Moines Alumnae Association⁹ and representatives from the University of Iowa (Sigma) chapter. That evening, an installation banquet was held at the Hotel Fort Des Moines, with 70 guests in attendance. Among those present were Mary Carpenter Craig, dean of women; Annie Holmes, wife of the university president; Myrtle Morehouse, wife of the dean of men; Carrie Barr, wife of the dean of education; and Frances Norton, wife of the dean of liberal arts. The tables were decorated with pink roses and clematis, the former of which was the official flower of Alpha Xi Delta. Toasts and greetings were exchanged throughout the program, which centered around an aviation theme. A poem, read at the closing of the banquet, reflected the tone of the ceremonies which had marked the day:

This fraternity of Alpha Xi Delta
Founded many years ago
Has been to us a hangar
To those of the old I.D.O.

Long seemed the days we waited
Until the glad news came
That the gates of the hangar were open
And we might enter our plane.

And so the old I.D.O. landed
Under the shelter of the Alpha Xi
To be readjusted and branded
And inspected thoroughly.

Now the plane is ready
To go forth but not alone
For the sign of the quill
Means a hangar or a home.¹⁰

On Sunday, a chapter business meeting was conducted, where the initiates received post-initiation training. The session formally concluded the installation of Alpha Iota chapter of Alpha Xi Delta.

The first rush party hosted by the new chapter took place on Monday, September 12, 1921. Described as a "millinery tea," the event was so novel that it nearly overshadowed the group's recent installation. Held in the home of A. Mead Piper (Beta, Iowa Wesleyan), 636 42nd Street, the party setting resembled a French millinery shop, complete with fitting rooms and French maids. Guests tried on different styles of fine paper hats, one of which they selected to take home as a favor. Decorations were lavish; a palm screen concealed an orchestra performing on a balcony. Partially as a result of the party, Alpha Iota was successful in obtaining eight new members that fall.

In the fall of 1921, Alpha Xi Delta relocated to 2019 University Avenue. The follow-

ing year, the residence was vacated, and the chapter moved to 1161 26th Street, where it remained for four years. In 1927, Alpha Xi Delta could be found at 2934 Cottage Grove Avenue; within a year it had again moved, having taken up residence at 3221 Forest Avenue.

Prior to the stock market crash of 1929, Drake University's seven social sororities¹¹ were comparable in size. However, by the early 1930s a hierarchy had developed; chapter memberships were becoming increasingly disparate, and Delta Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Kappa Kappa Gamma were emerging as the larger, stronger groups. Alpha Xi Delta's membership declined drastically beginning in 1932, and by 1934 only Chi Omega had fewer members; Phi Mu and Alpha Chi Omega had become inactive in 1932 and 1933, respectively. Alpha Iota's instability was further evidenced by its frequent housing relocations, having occupied a number of residences as follows: 3221 Forest Avenue (1929-33), 1133 37th Street (1933-34), 1112 29th Street (1934-37), and 3515 University Avenue (1937-39).

By the fall of 1937, campus opinion reflected the belief that either Chi Omega or Alpha Xi Delta would soon be leaving campus, Chi Omega being the more likely of the two to become an additional casualty of the Depression. The stronger sororities attempted to alleviate the situation by eliminating or significantly reducing their mid-year rush; this alone failed to provide a solution, and in January 1939 Chi Omega's situation had become so serious that it had been forced to vacate its chapter house. The Drake Panhellenic Council responded by unanimously accepting a motion which would limit total chapter size to 40 women, a move it was hoped would prevent the continuing imbalance in membership. The creation of a chapter limitation system at Drake University had been under discussion for some time, but "had previously met with strong opposition."¹²

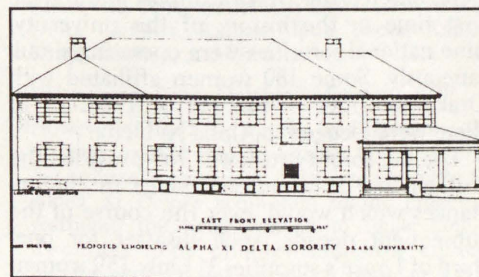
While the Panhellenic's actions may have been of some assistance to Alpha Xi Delta, it appears that the chapter was experiencing a recovery prior to the time at which the new policies took effect. Membership climbed from less than 20 women in the fall of 1937 to over 40 in 1939, and Alpha Iota was able to achieve increased financial stability. In the fall of 1939 it purchased a large and functional residence located at 1320 34th Street which over the years had been previously occupied by Chi Delta, Tau Kappa Epsilon, and Alpha Chi Omega. During the same year

Alpha Iota received one of five chapter improvement awards presented by Alpha Xi Delta.

In the spring of 1942 Alpha Xi Delta interrupted the Kappa Alpha Theta/Kappa Kappa Gamma monopoly over the campus scholarship trophy, winning the coveted award for the first time. Alpha Iota continued to make progress, and by the conclusion of World War II any ill-effects suffered during the previous decade had vanished.¹³ In the fall of 1949 Alpha Xi Delta, for the first time in its history, won the Sweetheart Sing competition; again received the Panhellenic Scholarship Trophy; and witnessed the election of a charter member, Agnes McDonough Dwyer '17, to the office of first vice president of the national organization. Dwyer, a Des Moines resident, also served as financial advisor to the Drake chapter.

After receiving the Panhellenic scholarship trophy in the fall of 1951, Alpha Iota was cited for having the highest academic standing of all Alpha Xi Delta chapters in the area. Two years later—on October 14, 1953—the final payment was made on the chapter house; a "mortgage burning" party proved to be a particularly joyous celebration, as just 15 years before Alpha Iota had teetered on the brink of becoming inactive. In 1955, the chapter was again recognized for having the highest scholastic ranking in the province, and Alpha Iota received the first of four consecutive victories in the annual homecoming decorations competition.

The period from the late 1950s through the 1960s was in essence a time of uneventful prosperity for Alpha Xi Delta. While the chapter achieved stabilization and its members were active and popular, for some reason affiliation with Alpha Xi Delta did not carry the same prestige that came with membership in several other Drake sororities. Nonetheless, Alpha Iota's membership continued to increase, and although the chapter



A blueprint from the 1964 remodeling/reconstruction of Alpha Xi Delta's chapter house, which resulted in one of the most attractive sorority dwellings at Drake University.

failed to match its scholastic superiority of previous semesters, it did enjoy other accomplishments. In 1962 the sorority embarked on a five year winning streak—an all-time sorority record—in the Sweetheart Sing competition. In the spring of 1964, work was begun on a \$90,000 addition to the chapter house, increasing its capacity from 27 to 39 women and providing an enlarged dining area. The project, which joined the existing chapter house to a home located on an adjacent lot, was completed by the following semester. An initial plan for a circular driveway with entrances on 34th Street and Forest Avenue was eliminated from the final project. In the

sorority and the recruitment of new members was rapidly on the decline. The fall rushes which followed would prove to be increasingly disastrous. By fall 1971 only 111 women were pledged by sororities, five of them by Alpha Xi Delta. Following the fall 1972 formal rush, Alpha Xi Delta could claim only three new affiliates.

In 1974—one year after a struggling Alpha Epsilon Phi left campus—Alpha Iota was forced to take drastic measures. The chapter was granted permission by the Panhellenic Council to be excused from providing a rush counselor¹⁵ from the chapter, allowing it to utilize each and every member at rush func-



The rapidly diminishing membership of Alpha Iota, 1973.

fall of 1967, Alpha Xi Delta's membership reached 70 women.

Typical of the mid-1960s was the success enjoyed by most of Drake's sororities. Average pledge classes numbered 20 women or more, and the percentage of students participating in formal rush was consistent. In the spring of 1968 a new sorority, Gamma Phi Beta, entered the Drake campus, and for the first time in the history of the university, nine national sororities were operating simultaneously. Some 180 women affiliated with Drake sororities in the fall of 1968; 25 of them were pledged to Alpha Xi Delta.

The fall sorority rush of 1969 provided the first glimpse of a radical change in circumstances which would, over the course of the subsequent decade, spell disaster for one-third of Drake's sororities.¹⁴ Only 159 women pledged sororities that semester, and Alpha Xi Delta attracted 15 of them. Alumnae from the period recalled the rush as a particularly disappointing one, where interest in the

tions. The same year saw the sorority vacate the impressive home which it had occupied for some 35 years; the chapter relocated to a modest rental property located at 1234 32nd Street.

The 1975 fall rush proved tragic for Alpha Iota; following the matching of sorority bids with rushee preference lists, Alpha Xi Delta learned that it had failed to receive a single pledge. This news, although not entirely unexpected, was nonetheless unwelcomed. The 12 women which comprised the chapter maintained an optimistic outlook, but the spring 1976 rush proved to be equally dismal. The sorority's uncertain future was resolved in April 1976 when Ernestine Marks (Alpha Eta, Purdue), national president of Alpha Xi Delta, notified Drake University that the national directors had "regretfully reached the decision to permit our Alpha Iota chapter on your campus to become dormant at the end of the 1975-76 academic year."¹⁶ Alpha Xi Delta requested that this fact be kept con-

fidential, as to allow the undergraduate chapter to make the announcement public. At the May 4, 1976 Panhellenic meeting, a representative from Alpha Iota read a letter which stated in part that

We wish to make it understood that this was our own decision. We petitioned our national to be granted this state of dormancy. Our charter was not "pulled" by Alpha Xi Delta national.

In leaving we wish to leave you with these thoughts. Two sorority houses leaving a campus within three years is not an indication of a successful, healthy Panhellenic system. We can only hope that you will realize this and make a deep introspection into the Panhellenic system at Drake and seek remedies.

We, as a chapter, have realized that the system can no longer support us and we have chosen to depart temporarily. When Drake's Panhellenic system is again strong and able to maintain an additional house, Alpha Iota chapter of Alpha Xi Delta will return to campus.

The actual date of the charter's withdrawal was June 18, 1976.

At the time Alpha Iota left the campus its housing board, Alpha Xi Delta Building Corporation of Des Moines, owed the national organization over \$40,000.¹⁷

Noteworthy Alpha Iota alumnae include Leona Anderson Troxell '34, who served as Drake University Women's Counselor from 1945-48. Troxell's position included the advisement of the Drake Panhellenic Council. Anna Olsen Hollett '23, was the national alumnae editor of Alpha Xi Delta from 1965-74. Lorraine Bleich Gallogly '57, has been Alpha Xi Delta's alumnae secretary since 1981. Agnes McDonough Dwyer, in addition to holding the office of first vice president from 1949-51, was instrumental in the establishment of the Alpha Xi Delta Foundation in 1957. Nancy Stokes Milnes '58, was a Fulbright Scholar and has appeared with various opera companies.

During its 55 years at Drake University, Alpha Xi Delta initiated 804 women.

¹Phi Mu, 1922-32, 1948-52; Alpha Chi Omega, 1921-33; Alpha Sigma Alpha 1922-36; Alpha Epsilon Phi, 1952-73; Alpha Xi Delta, 1921-76; Delta Zeta, 1946-79; and Gamma Phi Beta, 1968-83. Although the history of Delta Zeta was not as long and momentous as that of Alpha Xi Delta, the sorority did exhibit a great deal of promise at times during its operation at Drake.

²The individuals and motivation involved in the formation of Iota Delta Omicron apparently went unrecorded. The first mention of the sorority's membership appeared in the 1911 *Quax*, where ten women were shown.

³Minutes, Drake University Board of Trustees, February 9, 1909.

⁴The Inter-Club Conclave became fully operational in 1911.

⁵Sorority residences were the exception rather than the rule for the first quarter of the century. When Delta Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Kappa Kappa Gamma installed Drake chapters in 1921, none of their respective groups maintained housing.

⁶"The Phi Alpha of Sigma Alpha Epsilon," December 1920, p. 313.

⁷The petition was somewhat unique when compared to those being submitted by other local sororities. In addition to containing photographs of the campus, the petition included a photograph and three recommendations for each undergraduate member.

⁸Undergraduate initiates included Mary Jane Brumley, Genevieve Conrad, Clara Everil Dickinson, Anna Gibson, Lottie Gibson, Margaret

Hawley (president), Inez Jordan, Anna Olson, Bernice Thomas, Grace Turner, Jane Turner, Mildred Walters, and Norine Wiewel.

Alumnae initiates were Olive Hazel Benge, Amy Coventry, Mabel Williams Davidson, Margaret Cook Flynn, Helen Carmer Geauge, Electa Gibson, Elisa Grandrath Hagensick, Lillian Heathershaw, Bertha Goodrich Holbrook, Irma Stevens Hoak, Genevieve Johnson, Vera Christensen Kirk, Vera Swanson McCoy, Agnes McDonough, Ruth Morgan, Bess White Neiman, Bernice Benge Neasham, Mabel Morgan Payton, Prudence Peirce, Mary Scott, Bernice Stone, Helen Turner, Augusta Wellons, and Hazel Trimmer Voorhees.

⁹The Des Moines Alumnae Association of Alpha Xi Delta was established on February 12, 1920.

¹⁰The poem was the work of charter member Margaret Hawley.

¹¹Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Xi Delta, Chi Omega, Delta Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and Phi Mu.

¹²"The Drake Times-Delphic," March 10, 1939.

¹³However, in 1947 the sorority faced the prospect of being evicted from its chapter house. A zoning ordinance enacted in 1938, one year prior to Alpha Xi Delta's acquisition of the property, restricted the neighborhood to single family dwellings. The chapter somehow eluded enforcement of the ordinance until, in 1947, Kappa Alpha Theta requested that the street be rezoned so as to permit it to purchase and operate a residence in conformance with the law. The illegal presence of Alpha Xi Delta was

brought to light; however, after a fair amount of discourse between the City Plan and Zoning Commission and the Des Moines City Council, the sorority was granted a variance which allowed it to continue to utilize 1320 34th Street as a chapter residence.

¹⁴During the 1970s, Drake University lost three sororities in three-year intervals. Alpha Epsilon Phi, 1973; Alpha Xi Delta, 1976; Delta Zeta, 1979.

¹⁵Rush counselors are sorority members who temporarily disassociate themselves from their

organizations during the formal rushing period in order to provide unpressured assistance to rushees.

¹⁶To Marjorie Cunningham, assistant to the vice president of student life.

¹⁷Ernestine Marks, to Alpha Xi Delta, June 18, 1976.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Mildred Walters '21, Margaret Hawley Drake '22, and Lorraine Bleich Gallogly.

Chi Omega

Founded April 5, 1895, at the University of Arkansas. Total charter grants: 194, of which 171 remain active. Total initiates: 156,040. Colors: cardinal and straw; flower: the white carnation.

Gamma Delta Phi founded November 19, 1907; installed as the 50th or Rho Beta chapter of Chi Omega Fraternity April 29, 1921.

CHI OMEGA'S Rho Beta chapter was the first national sorority to be installed at Drake University. Preceding three other sorority installations by only one day, Chi Omega's unexpected chartering of Gamma Delta Phi on April 29, 1921, "was a big surprise to everyone."¹ The bewilderment was two-fold: the national organization's announcement of the installation preceded the event by only a week; further, Chi Omega originally had stated that April 30 would be the day on which it would charter the local sorority.

Organized on November 19, 1907, Gamma Delta Phi's founders included Carolyn Gard '08, Laura Eroe '08, Leona Van O'Linda '08, Kathleen Scanlan '08 and Frances Trowbridge '08. Because of university regulations prohibiting Greek-letter organizations, Gam-

ma Delta Phi was first known publicly as the Why Club.² The sorority's original faculty advisor was Ella Ford Miller; Miller, an initiate of Pi Beta Phi and a professor in the Primary Training Department, advised the group from its inception until 1920.

Gamma Delta Phi's constitution initially restricted membership to women "from the Primary Department of Drake University, there being not more than twelve members in the club."³ In 1913 the constitution was amended so that "two-thirds of the members . . . shall be chosen from the Primary Training School"; by 1915 the 12-member limitation had been dropped.

When the university ban against fraternities and sororities was lifted during the 1913-14 school year, Gamma Delta Phi made its



Rho Beta's membership during the 1921-22 school year.

Greek-letter identity public. Minutes of the organization's February 11, 1914 meeting eloquently describe the mood of the members on the occasion when "the pledges formed a doleful line and the 'Why' was laid away with fitting and clamorous lamentation and weeping."

In the fall of 1914 Gamma Delta Phi—known informally as Gamma Delt—secured a home located at 1362 24th Street; the following year the group moved to 1151 23rd Street. Operating without housing from 1916-19, the sorority leased a property located at 1161 26th Street in 1920.

Shortly after Hill M. Bell—long an opponent of Greek-letter societies—resigned as president of the university in 1918, Drake's local organizations began to survey national fraternities and sororities to learn their chartering requirements. Gamma Delta Phi is known to have approached several national organizations, including Kappa Kappa Gamma, whose local alumnae were of the belief that "there have always been only three locals on the campus recognized as national fraternity material."⁴ These same alumnae did not consider Gamma Delta Phi to be among the three.

After the university finally approved the formal petitioning of national organizations, Gamma Delta Phi apparently chose to investigate affiliation with Alpha Delta Pi.⁵ Other local sororities were likewise pursuing national sorority membership: Beta Chi Upsilon, Epsilon Tau Sigma, and Iota Alpha Omega were preparing to petition Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and Delta Gamma, respectively. Officers of the three national organizations met during the summer of 1920 at which time an agreement was reached regarding the prospective installation of chapters by them at Drake University. The agreement specified that pending acceptance of the petitions by the national sororities:

All three fraternities will establish chapters at the same time, and by doing so demonstrate to the world that there is democracy and cooperation among fraternities.⁶

By March 1921 all three petitions were indeed accepted and the agreement was formally ratified; the chapters would be installed Saturday, April 30, 1921.

Meanwhile, contact between Gamma Delta Phi and Alpha Delta Pi had apparently proven unproductive. However, Gamma Delta Phi was not about to remain a local order, as on April 24, 1921, *The Des Moines Sunday Register* reported that "a fourth

sorority, Gamma Delta Phi, on Friday received word of the granting of their petition by the Chi Omega fraternity, with installation on April 30." It is unclear if the installation was actually scheduled for April 30, or, as later events would demonstrate, Chi Omega's national officers had actually planned the chapter's establishment to precede that of the other three sororities. Describing the circumstances leading up to the installation, *A History of Chi Omega* states that

Chi Omega had been the ultimate goal of Gamma Delta Phi's hopes for years and was immediately petitioned. The installation of Rho Beta was scheduled for April 27, 1921 but a train wreck interfered. It was held on the morning of April 29 [and] Chi Omega was soon followed by others⁷

In celebration of the acceptance of its petition, Gamma Delta Phi's members donned ribbons of cardinal and straw—the colors of Chi Omega—at an informal ceremony held at the sorority's 26th Street address.

The secret meaning behind Gamma Delta Phi's Greek name was *Genuineness, Democracy, and Fidelity*. The question mark was adopted as the group's official emblem in 1914. A publication, *The Gamma Delta Phi*, was printed annually from 1916-20. The sorority's colors, originally light drab and pink, were changed on no fewer than four occasions;⁸ at the time of the acceptance of Gamma Delta Phi's petition by Chi Omega its colors were yellow and white. The sorority flower, originally the pink rose, was subsequently changed to the yellow rose.

Installation festivities for Rho Beta chapter of Chi Omega began on the morning of Friday, April 29, 1921, when 17 collegiates, along with five prominent Des Moines women, were initiated.⁹ Conducted in the home of an alumna initiate, Estelle Christian Seick, 5325 Waterbury Drive, the initiation ceremony began at 7:00 a.m.; this early time was dictated by the fact that collegiate charter members had classes to attend that morning. Following classes the new initiates returned to the Seick home where a model initiation was conducted by Chi Omega representatives from Coe College (Omicron Alpha) and the University of Iowa (Psi Beta). National President Mary C. Love Collins (Delta, Dickinson), who had directed the initiation, next presented a post initiation training program. That evening an installation banquet was held at the Hotel Savery, with approximately 50 members of Chi Omega in attendance, including Mary

Gilliland Brammer (Chi, Transylva), alumnae chapter president; Mary Love Collins; and representatives from Coe College and the University of Iowa. Mary Carpenter Craig, dean of women, represented the university at the affair. The banquet tables, decorated with spring flowers and the colors of Chi Omega, were arranged in a hollow square. Saturday afternoon Rho Beta was represented at the Panhellenic reception honoring officers and charter members of the four newly installed sororities. The reception was held at the Cotillion Ballroom.

Rho Beta's first social function as a chapter was a formal dance, held on June 4, 1921, at Hoyt Sherman Place (the Des Moines Women's Club). Honored guests included eighteen rushess, and Belle Wooden Kendall, wife of the governor of Iowa and an alumna initiate of Rho Beta.

On August 27, 1921, sixteen alumnae of Gamma Delta Phi were initiated into Chi Omega at the chapter's 26th Street address. National President Collins returned to Des Moines to perform the ceremonies, which were followed by a reception.

In 1923 the sorority purchased a home located at 2806 Brattleboro Avenue. The chapter would remain at the Brattleboro address until 1936.

The first several years following Rho Beta's installation were prosperous ones for most fraternities and sororities at Drake University. Enrollment was increasing and Greek affiliation remained a popular idea. The stock market crash of 1929, however, brought hard times to all groups; for some it brought disaster. In 1932 Phi Mu became the first national organization to lose its Drake chapter, followed by Alpha Chi Omega one year later. In 1937 pressures had also been brought to bear upon Chi Omega, forcing the sorority to a more modest home located at 1070 29th Street. By the fall of 1937 the campus speculated that either Chi Omega or Alpha Xi Delta would become the next to leave the campus, with Chi Omega thought of as being the more likely of the two to become a further casualty of the Depression. Minutes of the November 15, 1937 meeting of the Drake chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma noted "the serious situation with Alpha Xi Delta and Chi Omega because of their deficiency in number of membership." Concern on the part of the other campus sororities led to the reduction of their own mid-year recruitment, but this act alone failed to alleviate the situation. Relocating to even humbler surroundings at 1104 36th Street in the fall of 1938, by the following semester Chi Omega was

forced to relinquish housing completely, with its furniture sold to help meet outstanding debts.¹⁰ Under the headline "Chi Omega Gives Up Lease on its House," *The Drake Times-Delphic* reported that "rumors circulating about the campus this week that the Drake chapter of Chi Omega, national social sorority, is turning in its charter to the national council are false."¹¹

Chi Omega became functionally inactive for the remainder of the school year. Regular meetings were not held, and Rho Beta's only activity occurred in March when the chapter assisted Des Moines alumnae in hosting the biennial state convention. The sorority was not represented in the 1938-39 edition of the university annual, *The Quax*, nor did it compete in the competition for Panhellenic scholarship honors.

Shortly after Chi Omega vacated its chapter house, the Panhellenic Council took action in an attempt to correct the membership imbalance among its member sororities. After extended controversy and debate, a motion was unanimously passed which limited chapter membership to a maximum of 40 women.¹² The new policy, although enacted too late for the benefit of Phi Mu and Alpha Chi Omega, may have helped to save Chi Omega from extinction. On November 14, 1939, *The Drake-Times Delphic*



By the time of this 1940 composite, Rho Beta had begun to make headway in rebuilding a membership depleted by the Depression. Largely responsible for the chapter's recovery was Barbara Differbach, top left.



A fraternity sextet woos Rho Beta members, 1949.

made public the fact that "Chi Omega social sorority pledged eight women at a luncheon Saturday, thereby resuming an active part in Drake sorority life." Recognition for the chapter's turnaround is attributed to Barbara Diffenbach, an initiate of the Louisiana State (Phi Gamma) chapter of Chi Omega, and a graduate student at Drake University.¹³ Diffenbach obtained the eight women with the assistance of the chapter's sole remaining initiate, Betty Lou McCoy '42.

By the fall of 1940 the sorority had obtained a chapter house located at 3114 Cottage Grove Avenue and concentrated on resuming its previous level of activity. Making consistent progress, in 1945 the sorority relocated to 2700 University Avenue, a historic and beautiful residence which was previously utilized as the home of the university president.¹⁴

Continuing to enjoy success and stability from the mid-1950s until the 1960s, Chi Omega frequently found itself the largest sorority on campus. Chapter members were recognized for campus contributions and individuals were awarded various recognitions. Chapter scholastic achievement was inconsistent, however, and became progressively less impressive during the 1960s.

On October 20, 1961, Chi Omega attended a party sponsored by Alpha Tau Omega. The event, an "unregistered, unchaperoned party at which liquor was served,"¹⁵ resulted in the chapter being placed on general probation by the Panhellenic Council. The terms of the probation included the suspension of all social privi-

leges including dances, formals, parties, and mixers until April 1, 1962.¹⁶

In 1962, after a 17-year stay at 2700 University Avenue, Rho Beta moved to a three-story home located at 1243 34th Street. Acquired at an initial cost of \$29,000, the structure had a capacity of 18 women. The following year a \$60,000 addition to the property increased its capacity to 36 women, and provided a chapter room, house mother's quarters, and study areas. The living room and kitchen in the existing house were also enlarged. In 1967 the original section of the structure was entirely removed and replaced at a cost of \$105,000. Dedication ceremonies for the house were held on October 5, 1968. Speakers for the occasion included M. Stan Bell, vice president of institutional development at Drake University; Marjorie Cunningham, associate dean of students; and Dr. Elizabeth Dyer (Delta, Dickinson), national president



Chi Omega, a sorority rich in tradition, performing a rush serenade in the late 1970s.

of Chi Omega. Later in the afternoon a tea was given in honor of Dr. Dyer.

During the 1970s Chi Omega continued to enjoy a large and active membership. Beginning in 1976 the chapter's scholastic achievement improved greatly; during the most recent 15 semesters Rho Beta has consistently ranked among the top three sororities in campus scholarship, and received first place honors in the fall 1976 and spring 1977 semesters. Rho Beta held a 10-year house rededication ceremony in 1978 attended by campus fraternities and sororities. Although the chapter experienced a difficulty in competing with other Drake sororities for members during 1981 and 1982, Chi Omega, with a membership of 75 women in the fall of 1983, presently represents a strong and active chapter.

Several initiates of Rho Beta have exhibited a tendency to marry men with political futures: Belle Wooden Kendall, Cathleen Merle Beal Blue '24, and Billi Hornberger Ray '50, all married men who were destined to become governors of the State of Iowa.

In 1982 the Helen L. Dickey and Blanche J. Miller Scholarship Fund was established by Thomas P. Dickey in memory of his wife and sister-in-law; Dickey '32 was an initiate of Rho Beta chapter. Recipients are to be "active worthy members of Chi Omega, Delta Zeta or Sigma Phi Epsilon social Greek organizations."¹⁷

Karri Nussle '85, was selected Miss Iowa in 1983.

During its 62 years at Drake University, Chi Omega has initiated 1059 women.

¹Mary Rosemond, past national vice president, Delta Gamma, to Leulah Judson Hawley, secretary-editor, Delta Gamma, May 24, 1921.

²Often in the Club's early days, a question mark was included in the official name, making it the "Why? Club."

³Constitution, Gamma Delta Phi (1910) para. 1.

⁴An unsigned Des Moines alumna of Kappa Kappa Gamma, to Estelle Kyle Kemp, national vice president, Kappa Kappa Gamma, April 7, 1920.

⁵"The Phi Alpha of Sigma Alpha Epsilon," December 1920, p. 313.

⁶Leulah Judson Hawley, secretary-editor, and Edith V. Cochran, extension chairman, Delta Gamma, "Report of the Inspectors of Drake University and the J.A.O. to the Expansion Committee, Delta Gamma," undated.

⁷Ferguson, Christelle, et al., *A History of Chi Omega* (Mensha, Wisconsin: Collegiate Press, 1928), vol. I, p. 223.

⁸Sometime between 1910 and 1913 Gamma Delta Phi's colors were changed to lavender and pink; in approximately 1915 they became silver and old gold. Sometime after World War I the sorority finally settled on yellow and white.

⁹Undergraduates included: Ina Barnholt, Cathlene Beale, Nadine Broshar, Helen Caughlan, Euginia Elliot, Elma Faltonson, Blanche Forsythe, Margaret Garret, Mildred Hutchinson, Gladys Imhoff, Bernadine Jameson, Una Johnson, Irene Leaverton, Hortense Lovett, Lucille Nicholas (president), Blanche Pansie, and Maurine Turner. Alumnae included: Marie Car-

ter English, Josephine Gamble, Annie Pullen Holmes, Estelle Christian Seick, and Alice Wilson Weitz.

¹⁰Minutes of the November 7, 1938 meeting of Rho Beta indicated a balance of \$19.49 in the chapter treasury.

¹¹"The Drake Times-Delphic," January 20, 1939.

¹²The creation of a chapter limitation system at Drake University had been under discussion for some time, but had been traditionally unfavored by a majority of sororities. Since 1939 the practice—as recommended by the National Panhellenic Conference—has been continued.

¹³Barbara Diffenbach served as president of the Drake Panhellenic Council in 1940.

¹⁴Owned by the university, the property—known as Craig House—was opened in February 1920 as a mini-dormitory and social center for women. Following the completion of the Women's (Morehouse) Dormitory in 1931, Craig House became the home of the university president.

¹⁵Paul Bloland, dean of students, to Stuart Daniels, executive director, Alpha Tau Omega, November 16, 1961.

¹⁶Sue Hoffman, secretary, Drake Panhellenic Council, to Marjorie Cunningham, assistant dean of students, November 10, 1961.

¹⁷*The Drake University General Catalog: 1984-85*, p. 25.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Jerry Maloy, assistant to the president, Chi Omega Fraternity.

Delta Gamma

Founded December 1873 at the Lewis School. Total charter grants: 141, of which 113 remain active. Total initiates: 109,000. Colors: bronze, pink and blue; flower: the cream colored rose.

Iota Alpha Omega founded November 20, 1906; installed as the 44th or **Alpha Lambda** chapter of Delta Gamma Fraternity April 30, 1921.



A majority of Alpha Lambda's charter members were included in this 1921 chapter composite.

DELTA GAMMA's establishment of a chapter at Drake University was prompted neither as a recognition of the merits of Iota Alpha Omega, the local sorority which it chartered, nor the institution where the local was located. Rather, Delta Gamma's action was induced by the belief that "should Delta

Gamma fail to establish this chapter at this time, it is feared that her prestige in Iowa will be materially lessened."¹ By February 1921 it was apparent that Kappa Alpha Theta and Kappa Kappa Gamma were already committed to the establishment of chapters at Drake; and as such, Delta Gamma felt that the placement of a chapter at the university was essential to keep pace with other national sororities in the Midwest.

Founded by eight women on November 20, 1906, Iota Alpha Omega became the second enduring sorority to be organized at Drake. A university regulation prohibiting Greek-letter societies resulted in the group's adoption of the public name of J.A.O. Three years after the sorority's founding, the university trustees reaffirmed their opposition to fraternal organizations, enacting requirements over student groups which stated that "each club must have a distinct name other than the unrelated letters of some alphabet."² Iota Alpha Omega complied with the regulation by adding the letter *s* to its public name, become the Jaos Club. During the 1913-14 school year the university relaxed its position regarding fraternities and sororities, and Iota Alpha Omega was free to use its Greek-letter name openly.

Iota Alpha Omega operated housing for only one year; a residence, located at 1070 24th Street, was occupied by the sorority during the 1914-15 school year.

The colors of Iota Alpha Omega were lavender and purple; its flower was the violet. The sorority's emblem was a pair of crossed torches.

In 1915—the first year in which the scholastic standings of the local groups were made public—Iota Alpha Omega achieved the highest grade point average among the 10

sororities on campus. In 1917 Iota Alpha Omega's alumnae organization contributed \$100 to the university for the creation of a scholarship "to be used in any way that the authorities see fit."³ The gift was particularly timely, as the university was experiencing a budget crisis so severe that faculty salaries had been reduced.

Upon the appointment of Arthur Holmes as president of Drake University in September 1918, "the question of nationals was immediately agitated."⁴ By the following spring, many local sororities had begun to investigate the chartering procedures of various national organizations. Iota Alpha Omega is known to have initially surveyed both Kappa Alpha Theta and Delta Gamma, the latter of which visited the campus in April 1919 for the purpose of "inspecting the field,"⁵ and to review Iota Alpha Omega in particular. It would be almost a year, however, before the university gave its official approval to national affiliation by campus Greek-letter societies.

Presented with a "petition of about 750 names from our student body and the unanimous endorsement of the faculty in each college in the university,"⁶ on February 18, 1920, the Drake University Board of Trustees consented to allow local fraternities and sororities to affiliate with national organizations. Almost immediately, the Des Moines Delta Gamma alumnae organization (Tau Sigma)⁷ appointed a committee of three women to further investigate the fraternity situation at Drake. The committee, chaired by Mary Rosemond (Tau, Iowa),⁸ past national vice president of Delta Gamma, was particularly impressed by Iota Alpha Omega, indicating that

After leaving Drake, 13 from this group have gone Delta Gamma in the various universities over the country. They have strong alumnae in Des Moines, who will be good help to them. Tau Sigma Alumnae Association endorses this group. For years they have been looking our way and waiting for the time when they could petition Delta Gamma.⁹

Delta Gamma responded with the appointment of an investigation team comprised of Leulah Judson Hawley (Lambda, Minnesota), secretary-editor, and Edith Cochran (Sigma, Northwestern), extension director. Visiting Drake in early April 1920, Hawley and Cochran reported that

The institution did not impress us as being sufficiently modern to offer the best field for expansion . . . the scholarship standards of the institution seem low.¹⁰

However, the inspection team nonetheless suggested that "there are other considerations and circumstances entering into the situation, which leads us to advise establishing a chapter at Drake at this time."¹¹ The factors noted included the enthusiastic support of the Des Moines alumnae for Drake University and their belief that the institution had great future promise; the fact that Kappa Alpha Theta and Kappa Kappa Gamma had expressed a desire to install chapters at the university jointly with Delta Gamma; and the need for Delta Gamma to pursue further extension in Iowa.

Delta Gamma proceeded to propose a merger between Iota Alpha Omega and another Drake local sorority, Beta Chi Upsilon, believing that such an arrangement would create a strong group suitable to become a chapter of Delta Gamma. Beta Chi Upsilon, in which Delta Gamma had earlier expressed a keen interest, considered the proposal but eventually declined. Although Delta Gamma had implied that a petition reflecting the merits of Iota Alpha Omega would appear unsatisfactory to the existing chapters of the national organization, the sorority was nonetheless compelled to be represented at Drake. Delta Gamma established a formal relationship with Iota Alpha Omega, and the national leaders who had composed the investigation team committed themselves to doing "everything in our power to present this petition in the most favorable light possible so that we shall have no regrets later."¹² However, this endorsement required the approval of Delta Gamma's national president, Gertrude Bradley Wilbur, and an area official, Mary Raymond Lambert (both Sigma). The two officers were given the opportunity to review the situation in June 1920. Arranging a stop over in Des Moines while *en route* to install a chapter at Washburn University (Alpha Kappa), the women encouraged local alumnae to continue their efforts to bring Iota Alpha Omega into Delta Gamma.

A meeting of representatives of Delta Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta and Kappa Kappa Gamma during the summer of 1920 likely reinforced Delta Gamma's resolve to establish a chapter at Drake. At this meeting it was agreed that in the event each of the national organizations accept petitions from Drake local groups, "three fraternities will enter Drake together if at all."¹³

In the meantime, Iota Alpha Omega likewise was weighing its options. The local was duly impressed with Delta Gamma and decided to pursue affiliation with the sorority

to the exclusion of all other national organizations. Cognizant that its recent tendency toward a less than impressive scholastic standing was of concern to Delta Gamma, Iota Alpha Omega vowed "just watch us, you won't know us in three months time."¹⁴ Within a year the local had kept its promise; efforts at scholastic improvement were evident in its movement from the bottom half of the campus scholarship rankings to a position in the upper third.

While the national leadership of Delta Gamma recognized the opportunities which existed at Drake University, the sorority required the unanimous consent of its existing chapters before a charter could be granted.¹⁵ The November 1920 issue of Delta Gamma's magazine, *The Anchora*, included an article on Drake University and, perhaps not coincidentally, an editorial on the merits of extension.¹⁶ Several months later, upon calling for a vote on the petition of Iota Alpha Omega, the national sorority's officers actively promoted the establishment of a Drake chapter, stating that

Kappa Alpha Theta and Kappa Kappa Gamma are considering the establishment of chapters at Drake and a conference between the two fraternities and Delta Gamma has resulted in a policy of cooperation. There are three strong locals at Drake, each with a petition before one of the above nationals. Iota Alpha Omega, whose petition has been placed the longest and most consistently of the three, is regarded without question as being the most desirable of the local groups. The council urges upon the chapters that they give this matter immediate and serious attention, and that at an early date they vote favorably on the petition of Iota Alpha Omega.¹⁷

On March 14, 1921, Kappa Kappa Gamma's petitioning local became the first Drake sorority to receive word of the acceptance of its petition; three days later Kappa Alpha Theta approved the installation of a chapter on campus. Days passed by; the voting on Iota Alpha Omega's petition by Delta Gamma's chapters remained uncompleted.

Finally, on March 23, 1921, Margaret Seidlitz Allen (Tau), president of the Des Moines alumnae association, received a telegram from Delta Gamma which announced "Drake petition granted: congratulations to all." That evening, at the home of Mary Rosemond, 715 35th Street, undergraduate members of Iota Alpha Omega received ribbons of bronze, pink and blue—the colors of Delta Gamma—in an informal ceremony.

Word of Iota Alpha Omega's acceptance was warmly received by the other local groups who had also been successful in petitioning; at last a date could be set for the joint installation. It was determined that the charterings would take place on Saturday, April 30, 1921. A fourth national sorority, Chi Omega, indicated in a surprise announcement that it too would establish a Drake chapter the weekend of April 30.¹⁸

The first step in the installation sequence of Alpha Lambda chapter of Delta Gamma was conducted on April 15, 1921, with the pledging service of the national sorority. Mary Raymond Lambert conducted the ceremony which was held at the home of Edna Rendall Kraft (Tau), 2917 Grand Avenue.

On the morning of Saturday, April 30, the initiation of the chapter's charter members was held at the home of Louise Brockett Weitz (Tau), 5231 Waterbury Road. The installation team was originally planned to have included Delta Gamma National President Gertrude Bradley Wilbur and Secretary-Editor Leulah Judson Hawley; for reasons which remain unknown, neither national officer was present for the event, and Mary Raymond Lambert instead oversaw the installation of Alpha Lambda chapter. Assisting in the installation were collegiates from the University of Iowa, Washburn University, the University of Nebraska (Kappa), and Washington University-St. Louis (Alpha Epsilon). Just before the initiation was scheduled to begin, another Drake student, Kathleen Rines, was pledged to Delta Gamma, raising the number of women to be initiated to 15.¹⁹ That afternoon the national officers and charter initiates were represented at a Panhellenic tea in honor of the four newly-installed chapters. Held in the Cotillion Ballroom, the reception was attended by over 500 guests.

Alpha Lambda's installation banquet was conducted at the Hotel Fort Des Moines in the evening. Over 100 Delta Gammas—representing 15 chapters²⁰—enjoyed a toast program entitled "An Important Meeting at the Smiling Pool." Toastmistress Mary Rosemond presided over the scenario of "Drake and the little ducklings arriving at the smiling pool of Delta Gamma in the green forest of the fraternity world."²¹ The national sorority's colors were used in the decorations, with large bronze baskets of pink snapdragons appearing on each of the banquet tables. The favors were tangerine and black duckling caps.

On Sunday afternoon, May 1, 1921, a

model chapter meeting was held at the family home of Isabel Travers '22 in Linden Heights.

At the time of Iota Alpha Omega's installation by Delta Gamma, approximately one-half of the campus' fraternities and sororities did not operate residences. While a lack of housing did not seem to affect membership recruitment, it made social activities inconvenient to conduct, and also precluded participation in traditional Drake activities such as the annual homecoming house decoration contest. Nonetheless, Alpha Lambda did participate in the fall 1921 contest; the women borrowed a dog house and proceeded to decorate it appropriately, later placing the house in the center of campus. The following year the chapter succeeded in securing a residence which was located at 2615 26th Street, but the duration of the sorority's stay at the home would prove limited. In 1923 Delta Gamma moved to 1118 26th Street; also finding these quarters inadequate, the chapter would relocate no fewer than five more times²² before it settled at 3303 University Avenue in 1932. The chapter remained at the University Avenue address until 1944, when the Drake-owned property was converted into a women's dormitory.

In the spring of 1935 the Women's Self-Governing Association sponsored "Valentine's Sweetheart Sing," a competitive songfest which has remained a popular Greek tradition at Drake. Alpha Lambda, "dressed in blue robes and wearing the traditional Delta Gamma rose,"²³ won the sorority division of the contest during the first two years that it was held.

A major event within Alpha Lambda chapter, the presentation of the Betty Haskins Memorial Award, was established in April 1938. Created by the Haskins family,²⁴ the award honored Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Haskins '32, Alpha Lambda's tenth president who died shortly after her graduation from Drake University. The recipient of the award, which is presented at the chapter's annual founders day banquet, is determined "equally on scholarship, leadership, and personality" by "the president of the Des Moines Alumnae Association, the president of Alpha Lambda chapter, and the president of the Alpha Lambda pledge class."²⁵ A platinum and diamond badge of Delta Gamma is given to the member so honored, to be worn during her senior year. Additionally, each recipient adds a list of her activities to a book containing those of all Alpha Lambda initiates who have received the Haskins Award.

In 1944 the chapter moved to 1080 22nd

Street, an impressive residence known locally as the Peak Mansion. The stately home had been presented to Drake by one of its trustees, George A. Peak '16,²⁶ in the same year. The university in turn leased the property—which could accommodate up to 40 members—to Delta Gamma. Ideal as a chapter house, the mansion included a dozen ceramic-tiled bathrooms; a master suite, complete with fireplace; a large coach house; and a portico supported by four mammoth corinthian columns. In March of 1947 the property was featured on the cover of Delta Gamma's national magazine, *The Anchora*.



Delta Gamma

This photograph of Alpha Lambda's impressive chapter house was featured on the cover of the March 1947 issue of *The Anchora* of Delta Gamma.

During both semesters of the 1947-48 school year Alpha Lambda received campus honors for outstanding sorority scholarship, its first such recognition in 25 years. Again accepting the coveted award in the spring semesters of 1950 and 1952, the chapter subsequently experienced inconsistent academic achievement, and has yet to again be presented with the Panhellenic scholarship trophy.

While Delta Gamma's size during the late 1940s and early 1950s was generally reflective of the campus average, by 1952 the chapter was experiencing some difficulty in membership recruitment. For the next three years

Alpha Lambda was among the smallest sororities at Drake. By 1956 however, the chapter had regained its former stability. For the remainder of the decade Delta Gamma enjoyed a successful, albeit uneventful, existence.

By the mid-1950s the area immediately south of Drake University, commonly referred to as the Cottage Grove district,²⁷ had gradually begun to deteriorate. In 1957 the Federal Bureau of Public Roads endorsed a plan for the construction of an east-west freeway which, once completed, would functionally isolate entire sections of the neighborhood from the remainder of the community and accelerate the general decline of the area. Delta Gamma, whose 22nd Street home was located within the affected area, increasingly felt less secure about residing in the neighborhood. In the early 1960s concern for the safety of its members prompted the sorority to investigate alternative housing arrangements.



Delta Gamma did a credible job in constructing this float for a Drake Relays Parade of the mid-1960s.

Sensing that tentative university plans for a fraternity-sorority row would not materialize in the near future if at all, Alpha Lambda's house corporation retained a real estate agent in May 1962. In mid-June, representatives of the house corporation met with Dean of Students Paul Boland and University Business Manager Carl Kasten to secure the requisite university approval to purchase and remodel a home located at 1227 34th Street, located in an area which was rapidly becoming an informal Greek Row. Unimpressed with a proposed floor plan—which included sleeping areas on the first floor—and additionally unconvinced that the sorority could meet the financial burden of the purchase and a proposed addition, the uni-

versity officers declined to grant approval of the purchase. Delta Gamma, fearing that the conveniently located home might be lost to another group, disregarded the university's position and purchased the house. Reflecting on the situation, Dean of Students Paul Boland indicated that "we are now confronted with a *fait accompli*. Delta Gamma has a \$41,000 investment to protect and will be pushing us to approve a plan for them after buying the property without our permission in the first place."²⁸

On June 29, 1962, Paul Boland telephoned Delta Gamma Executive Secretary Roberta Abernethy (Epsilon, Ohio State), who was in Mackinac Island, Michigan, preparing for the sorority's national convention. Boland informed Abernethy that he had "a letter prepared suspending the chapter from the Drake campus which I will send if we have not been able to resolve the problem of the relationship between representatives of the chapter and the university."²⁹ Abernethy responded by arranging for Marjorie Reeves Van Ness (Theta, Indiana), national treasurer, to travel to Des Moines following the convention. Van Ness' mediation resulted in a compromise: the sorority would be allowed to retain its university recognition provided that the alumnae submitted a revised floor plan and an operational budget. Additionally, the chapter was allowed to continue to lease the Peak Mansion from the university, on a monthly basis, until an addition to the 34th Street property was completed. Interestingly, there was a major turnover in the membership of Alpha Lambda's house corporation during the summer months; it is unclear if this change was an act undertaken by the national organization in the hope of improving relations with the university, or a purely fortuitous event.

Construction of an addition to the 34th Street property was begun late in the summer of 1962, but the project was unexpectedly delayed because of a railroad strike. Completed in the spring of 1963, the chapter house featured a split-level living room, an L-shaped dining area with a seating capacity for 60 individuals, and sleeping accommodations for 40 women.

Shortly after relocating to 34th Street, Delta Gamma and Sigma Phi Epsilon began jointly sponsoring the "Sig Ep-Delta Twist," an annual all-university social affair. The event remained popular through its discontinuance in 1969.

The membership of Alpha Lambda observed the chapter's 50th anniversary in March 1971. An impressive program began

theRecord

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THE UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCE

Alpha Lambda's residence again made the cover of a national fraternity publication in 1977; on this second occasion, however, the chapter graced The Record of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

with the initiation of 12 Alpha Lambda pledges in the morning, and continued with the annual founders day luncheon. Undergraduate members presented a skit, which was followed by opening remarks from Joy Chawgo Readinger '62, Des Moines alumnae chapter president. Dorothy Johnson Davison '25, presented 50 year certificates to three charter members who were present for the event. Greetings were read from seven additional charter members, including Frances Herriott Sargent '22—Alpha Lambda's first president—who also donated her Delta Gamma badge to the chapter in honor of the occasion. The Marjorie Conrad Cotton Award, named in recognition of an Alpha Lambda charter member, was presented for the first time at the anniversary celebration. The honor has since been annually bestowed upon an alumna in recognition of "service and loyalty to the alumnae chapter."³⁰

In 1974, Alpha Lambda won the Sweetheart Sing competition for the eighth time

since receiving honors at the first songfest in 1935. The chapter would go on to be awarded the Sweetheart Sing trophy three out of the next four years.

Anchor Splash, which has come to be a popular campus event, was first sponsored by Alpha Lambda in the spring of 1978. Through Anchor Splash, a week-long series of activities, Alpha Lambda has raised funds for Sight Conservation and Aid to the Blind, the national philanthropy of Delta Gamma.

By 1981, Alpha Lambda, whose membership had been on a steady increase since 1978, became the largest sorority at Drake University. In September 1981, the chapter began planning a three-phase, \$775,000 expansion and remodeling of the chapter house. Ground breaking was originally scheduled for April 1983; however, fundraising difficulties—due largely to the fact that such contributions are not tax-deductible—have caused a delay in the project.

As of the fall of 1983, Delta Gamma remained the largest sorority on campus, with a total active membership of 95 women.

Alumnae of Alpha Lambda have been particularly involved in the national affairs of Delta Gamma: Betty Bott Shaw '48, was national vice president (alumnae) 1980-82; Edith Murphy Sackett '22, served as chairman of rituals, 1951-53; Barbara Haney '53, field secretary, 1953-56; and Christine Hookanson '74, field secretary, 1974-75. Additionally, no fewer than 12 Alpha Lambda alumnae have served as area officials, the first of which was Frances Herriott. Other accomplished Delta Gammas from Drake University include Valeria Winkler Griffith '33, an author of short stories whose work has regularly appeared in women's magazines in the United States and Europe; Nancy Hetherington Dorff '46, director of alumni relations at Drake University from 1974-79; and V. Scott Hoff '44, who in 1977 wrote *RALPH—Early and Late/The Late Ralph*, a biographical sketch of a St. Bernard belonging to the Drake chapter of Phi Delta Theta.

During its 62 years at Drake University, Delta Gamma has initiated 1173 women.

¹Leulah Judson Hawley, secretary-editor, and Edith V. Cochran, executive director, Delta Gamma, "Report of the Inspectors of Drake University and the J.A.O. to the Expansion Committee," undated.

²Minutes, Drake University Board of Trustees, February 9, 1920.

³"The Drake Delphic," May 18, 1917.

⁴Agnes Flack, president, Epsilon Tau Sigma, to Mary Ashby, vice president, Kappa Alpha Theta, April 28, 1919.

⁵Mae Mitchell Lorentzen, corresponding secretary, Iota Alpha Omega, to Edith Cochran,

extension chairman, Delta Gamma, April 12, 1919.

⁶Arthur Holmes, president, Drake University, to Irving Brown, president, Drake Student Council, February 18, 1920.

⁷The Des Moines Alumnae Association was formed on April 13, 1918. Its existence remained unknown to the national organization until 1920. The association was accorded alumnae chapter status in 1949.

⁸Also serving on the committee were Clara Bearnes Haskins (Lambda, Minnesota), and Jean Carver Saylor (Upsilon, St. Lawrence).

⁹Mary Rosemond, to Edith Cochran, national extension director, Delta Gamma, March 19, 1920.

¹⁰"Report of the Inspectors of Drake University and the J.A.O. to the Expansion Committee," undated.

¹¹Id.

¹²Leulah Judson Hawley, to Mary Rosemond, July 1920.

¹³Id.

¹⁴Mary Rosemond, to Leulah Judson Hawley, April 12, 1920.

¹⁵At its 1922 national convention, Delta Gamma revised this requirement so "charters would be granted with a 95% vote of the collegiate chapters and 90% of the alumnae chapters rather than the unanimous vote previously required." "The Anchora of Delta Gamma," fall 1966, p. 109.

¹⁶The editorial, which was written by National President Gertrude Bradley Wilbur, appears to have been tailored to Drake University. Wilbur wrote that

So much must be taken into consideration to determine just what constitutes a "proper opportunity." Sometimes it is the particular desirability of the institution under consideration: it may be the protection of a chapter, for one chapter in a state may find it difficult to compete with similar organizations having two or three in the state: again it may be necessary in order to maintain our national prestige to place a chapter in a certain section of the country or that our cooperation with other Nationals in a particular field is desirable.

¹⁷Leulah Judson Hawley, "Council Report on the

Petition of Iota Alpha Omega of Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa," undated.

¹⁸Rho Beta chapter of Chi Omega was installed on April 29, 1921.

¹⁹Including: Martha Brown, Marjorie Conrad, Cecelia Duus, Frances Herriott (president), Gertrude Kane, Kathryn Keefner, Mae Mitchell Lorentzen, Verna Losee, Ester Martin, Kathryn Miley, Vera Price, V. Kathleen Rines, Ella Stein, Isabel Travers, Dorothy Tuttle. Frances Herriott was the daughter of Frank I. Herriott, a respected and admired political science professor at Drake University from 1903-41. Herriott Dormitory is named for the elder Herriott.

²⁰Most of the visiting chapters were located within the geographical area that Delta Gamma had designated as Province IV. At the time of Alpha Lambda's installation, Province IV was the largest of these areas, comprised of seven collegiate and five alumnae chapters.

²¹"The Des Moines Register," May 1, 1921.

²²Subsequent addresses included:
1924—2821 Brattleboro Avenue
1926—3015 Kingman Boulevard
1927—3782 Cottage Grove Avenue
1929—4018 Kingman Boulevard

²³"The Drake Times-Delphic," February 14, 1935.

²⁴Betty Haskins' mother, Clara Bearnes Haskins, a member of the alumnae committee that initially investigated Iota Alpha Omega, was corresponding secretary of the Des Moines Alumnae Association at the time of the installation of Alpha Lambda chapter. Mrs. Haskins was present for the installation ceremonies of the Drake University chapter.

²⁵Flyleaf in Betty Haskins Memorial Award signature book, 1938.

²⁶George A. Peak was the husband of Vera Saunders Peak, an early initiate of Iota Alpha Omega.

²⁷Cottage Grove Avenue is the major thoroughfare of the area.

²⁸Paul Bloland, to Henry Harmon, president, Drake University, June 28, 1962.

²⁹Paul Bloland, to Roberta Abernethy, June 29, 1962.

³⁰"The Anchora of Delta Gamma," Summer, 1971, p. 23.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Jane Gibbs, national archivist, Delta Gamma Fraternity.

Delta Sigma Theta

Founded 1913, at Howard University. Colors: crimson and cream; flower: the violet.
A group of Des Moines residents and Drake students installed as the 18th or **Phi** chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority June 1925; recognized by Drake University November 16, 1981.

DELTA SIGMA THETA was the first organization at Drake University to provide a fraternal experience for black women. Installed in June 1925, the sorority's initial membership was composed of students as well as members of the Des Moines black community, which were referred to as "graduates." The practice of installing "mixed" community chapters was a common one; the majority of Delta Sigma Theta's 18 chapters had such compositions at the time of Phi's installation. The establishment of mixed chapters was promoted as graduate members would provide a continuity of membership that the more transitory undergraduates were unable to attain.¹

Credit for the establishment of Phi chapter is accorded to Edna Johnson Morris (Beta, Wilberforce), national secretary of Delta

Sigma Theta.² Morris, who had recently relocated to the Des Moines area, presided over the installation ceremonies of the chapter. Phi chapter operated essentially without competition until 1932, when a chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha—likewise composed of black students and women from the community—was chartered in Des Moines.

Due to the exceedingly small enrollment of black women at Drake University, Phi's activities were primarily centered within the greater Des Moines community. Although the existence of Delta Sigma Theta's membership on campus was noted,³ the group was not a particularly active student force. In fact, there is little or no record of the sorority's presence at Drake from 1930-1980.

In 1981 Delta Sigma Theta, which had adopted a change in policy, informed the



At the time of this 1928 photograph and until recently, Delta Sigma Theta's membership was composed of Drake students as well as black women from the community at large.

Office of Greek Life at Drake University that

Mixed chapters are being phased out and no new chapters have been established with such a structure. Of the four remaining chapters, three are in the central region and includes Des Moines area, Phi chapter. With increasing minority enrollments and the use of "city-wide" undergraduate structures, it has been possible to accommodate women aspiring to membership within charters granted to chapters other than the single campus based chapter or mixed chapter.⁴

On July 1, 1981, the alumnae of Delta Sigma Theta officially became the Des Moines Alumnae Chapter. On November 8, 1981 the undergraduate group—which retained the chapter designation of Phi—elected their own chapter officers, drawing a close to the official relationship between the two groups. On November 16, 1981 Phi was recognized as a student organization by Drake University; its membership in the fall of 1983 included 12 women.

¹Hortense G. Canady, national vice president, Delta Sigma Theta, to Sheree L. Clark, coordinator of Greek life, Drake University, April 24, 1981.

²Morris was instrumental in several of the sorority's early extension efforts.

³The sorority was represented in the 1929 edition of the university annual, *The Quax*.

⁴Hortense G. Canady, to Sheree L. Clark, April 24, 1981.

Delta Zeta

Founded 1902 at Miami University. Total charter grants: 181, of which 118 remain active. Total initiates: 86,000.* Colors: old rose and green; flower: the pink rose.

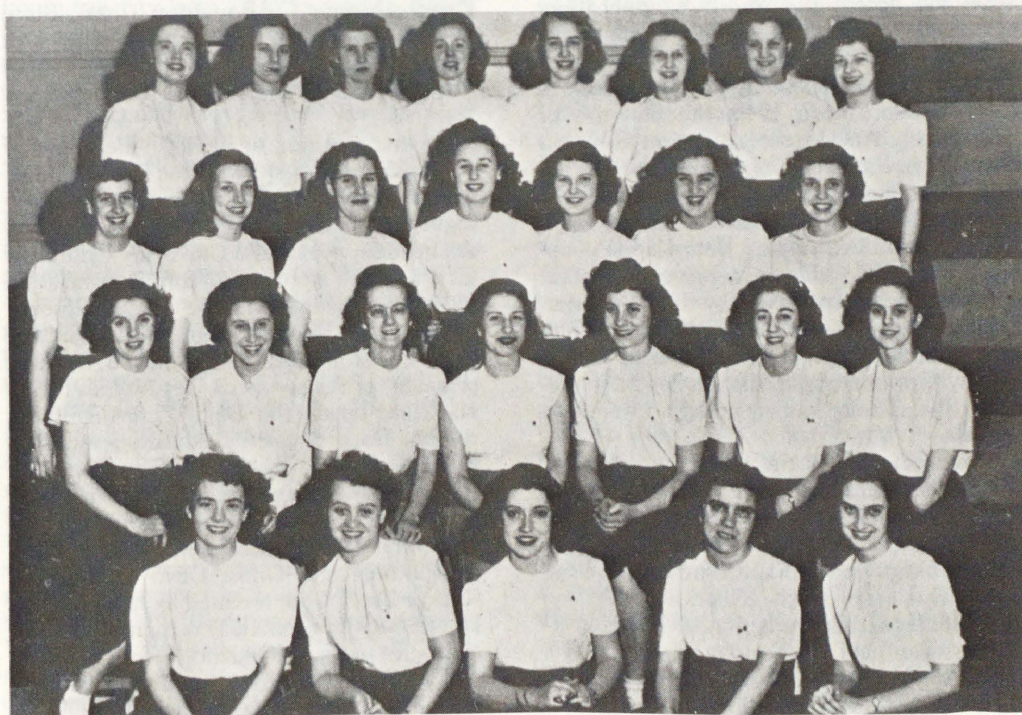
The Drake colony organized February 17, 1946; installed as the **Gamma Epsilon** chapter of Delta Zeta Sorority April 1, 1946. Declared non-operating September 1979.

*Figures reflect 1976 data; national office unable to provide updated information.

DELTA ZETA was the first national fraternity or sorority to attempt colonization at Drake University. While twelve chapters of national organizations had been installed prior to Delta Zeta's 1946 arrival, all had originated from local petitioning groups. In actuality, Delta Zeta was forced to colonize, as no local sororities were then in existence on the Drake campus.

A 1945 expression of interest in Drake by Delta Zeta proved timely; the conditions for

expansion during the 1945-46 school year were more favorable than they had been at any other previous time.¹ The seventh and most recent National Panhellenic Conference group to enter the campus had been Phi Mu in 1922, which, along with Alpha Chi Omega, had been lost during the Depression. Drake's enrollment had nearly doubled since the conclusion of World War II;² with sorority affiliation restricted to less than 20 percent of the 1142 women attending Drake,



Gamma Epsilon's charter members, the result of the first colonization effort undertaken at Drake University.

due to a self-imposed limitation of 45 members per chapter, a successful expansion effort appeared likely.

While the need for an additional Drake sorority was recognized, no procedure had been established by either the university or the Panhellenic Council for systematic growth. The Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, organized in the fall of 1945, assumed responsibility for the consideration of inquiries from national organizations interested in Drake University. A letter from Delta Zeta, submitted on December 6, 1945, was the committee's first such formal application.³ Delta Zeta's Extension Vice President Marguerite Wherry Havens (Beta Kappa, Iowa State), stated that plans for a Drake chapter would "include immediate colonization with formal pledging on or before February 1, 1946, with initiation and installation of the chapter in the spring 1946." Reflecting the belief that time was of the essence, Havens determined that 15 women would be necessary to establish a nucleus prior to pledging ceremonies, but that additional women would be recruited "as quickly as possible." Recognizing Delta Zeta's desire to establish a new chapter immediately, and having no other inquiries from national sororities interested in extension, the committee quickly acted to review and accept the sorority's application. Approval by the Panhellenic Council occurred on January 10, 1946.

Delta Zeta undertook its Drake colonization on February 7, 1946, the first day of spring rush. An initial recruitment function was held in the lounge of Morehouse Dormitory, with subsequent rush parties conducted in the home of Marguerite Havens, 3018 School Street. Assisted by Beta Kappa chapter, Havens was able to achieve the initial goal of 15 colony members by the conclusion of formal rushing on February 9. Rush efforts continued throughout the following week, and by the time of the official pledging ceremony the sorority had attracted a total of 25 women.

Arrangements for the pledging ceremony were coordinated by Janet Lemen '47 and Victoria Smothers '47, two Delta Zeta initiates who had transferred to Drake from Iowa State College and Florida Southern College (Beta Mu), respectively. Conducted by the Des Moines alumnae chapter, the pledge ceremony was held on Sunday, February 17, 1946, at the home of Mary Garrett (Beta Kappa), 207 Lincoln Place Drive.⁴

The first meeting of the newly established colony was held on Monday, February 18.

Officers were elected for the group, with transfer student Janet Lemen chosen to serve as pledge trainer. Meetings for the remainder of the semester were held in Old Main, the university's administration building.

"Since the installation of [the colony as] Gamma Epsilon is of decided interest to all Iowa Delta Zetas, it seemed most fitting to have initiation on State Day, April 6-7, 1946."⁵ That weekend members of the University of Iowa (Iota) chapter and the women of the Drake colony traveled to Beta Kappa chapter in Ames to attend a regional meeting. The major order of business involved the initiation of 18 charter members⁶ of Gamma Epsilon chapter which was performed on the morning of April 6. Not included with those initiated as a charter member of Gamma Epsilon was colony President Joey Wise, who was later initiated at the June 1946 Delta Zeta National Convention, held in Pequot, Minnesota. Following the initiation ceremony, a luncheon for the three groups was held at its the Iowa State Memorial Union. In the afternoon Beta Kappa sponsored a formal tea at its chapter house, introducing the newly initiated members from Drake to Iowa State faculty and fraternity and sorority members. Included in a receiving line were Delta Zeta's National President Grace Mason Lundy (Epsilon, Indiana), Executive Director Irene C. Boughton (Iota), State Chairman Elizabeth H. Platt, and Des Moines Alumnae Chapter President Louise Cecka. Also in attendance was Marguerite W. Havens.

On the morning of April 7, the scene of the installation shifted to Des Moines. Lundy, Boughton, and Havens, accompanying the membership of Gamma Epsilon, attended services at the University Church of Christ. In the afternoon, a formal installation reception was held in the Drake Student Union (The Kennel), then located in the basement of Jewett Hall. Florence B. Stickles, president of the sorority's Des Moines Mothers Club, joined the Delta Zeta dignitaries present for the affair. Installation was concluded with a banquet that evening held at the Hotel Commodore. Charter members Loie Ehler '46, and Beverly Nord '48, provided musical entertainment; National President Lundy and Drake Dean of Students George Beery were featured as speakers, and Janet Lemen was officially recognized for her assistance in the colonization effort.

The Panhellenic Council immediately extended its support to the newest of Drake's Greek organizations. Member sororities voted to make available their "services and

homes" to Delta Zeta for the remainder of the spring 1946 semester. A month after Gamma Epsilon's installation, when the national sororities Gamma Phi Beta and Theta Upsilon⁷ requested permission to organize on campus, the Panhellenic Council responded to the prospect of additional growth in the negative, citing "the possibility of hindering Delta Zeta."⁸

In the spring of 1946 Delta Zeta purchased a home located at 3118 Cottage Grove Avenue, which the chapter occupied for the first time that fall. The house, which could accommodate up to 20 women, was obtained at a cost of \$15,000.⁹

Delta Zeta's entrance into campus life was made quickly and with relative ease. In 1948 the group won its first Sweetheart Sing competition; a year later the chapter received campus scholarship honors. The membership of Delta Zeta could also be found involved in nearly every campus organization and activity. Following continued success, by 1952 Delta Zeta was the largest sorority on the Drake campus, a distinction it possessed intermittently throughout the decade.

In the summer of 1955 extensive remodeling of the chapter house was undertaken. Completed by late fall, the renovated structure featured a sleeping dormitory on the third floor, which increased the chapter house capacity from 20 to 35 women. Study rooms were built on the second floor, and the ground level was entirely refurbished. The exterior of the house was drastically altered: first and second floor porches were stripped away and replaced by a brick face, making the completed chapter house unrecognizable from that of a year prior. In the fall of 1956 Delta Zeta, its successful image further enhanced by the remodeled residence, acquired 24 new members, the largest pledge class among all sororities. However, a large graduating class the following spring effectively cancelled the successful membership recruitment.

By the late 1950s Gamma Epsilon, for the first time in its brief history, had lost momentum. The chapter's lack of self-confidence was evidenced by its fall 1957 opposition to the colonization of Alpha Phi. Joining forces with Chi Omega, the two sororities—the smallest¹⁰ at Drake University with memberships of 29 women each—proved unable to block Alpha Phi's entrance onto campus.¹¹ Yet as the 1960s approached, Delta Zeta regained stability. In the fall of 1960 the chapter obtained 34 pledges; a year later Gamma Epsilon won the first of three successive Panhellenic scholarship trophies.

On August 19, 1963, all debts were cleared on Gamma Epsilon's Cottage Grove property: a 10-year mortgage and other loans incurred in the 1955 remodeling project had been paid off in eight years. That same summer, plans for a new chapter house addition were being developed. The blueprints detailed a \$60,000 addition, including a basement-level kitchen/dining room, outdoor patio, additional study rooms, library, and improved house mother's accommodations. Construction was begun in October 1963; as the existing structure was not significantly altered, chapter members continued to live in the house. Completed in April 1964, the enlarged Delta Zeta house had a capacity of 48 women.

Delta Zeta continued to excel in extracurricular involvement; unfortunately, its scholastic achievement was not matched by its level of campus activity. From the fall of 1966 until the chapter's demise in 1979, Delta Zeta was consistently in the lower half of the sorority scholarship rankings, and on six occasions the group was accorded the dubious honor of last place.

The period of the mid-to-late 1960s was a prosperous time for most of Drake's sororities. The percentage of affiliated women was rising as chapters became larger. A ninth¹² women's fraternity was added to campus when Gamma Phi Beta colonized in the fall of 1967, the same year which "found the Delta Zeta house alive with the voices of their largest pledge class in history."¹³ By 1968, 32.6 percent of eligible women students belonged to sororities. By the early 1970s, however, the trend had reversed itself. The number of women participating in rush plummeted from 361 in 1970, to 249 in 1971, while the overall university enrollment remained essentially stable. While all Greek organizations were affected by the change in attitude toward fraternity life which was characteristic of the period, certain chapters felt the repercussions more keenly than others.

Delta Zeta was the first sorority to experience noticeable side effects from the reduced rushee pool. Membership in the chapter—which had averaged 70 women in the period from 1966-68—had dropped to approximately 50 in 1969. Unable to replace large numbers of graduating seniors, by 1970 Delta Zeta was the second smallest sorority at Drake University.

The implementation of a deferred rush program in the fall of 1973—a move which further reduced the number of students participating in rush—hindered the recruitment



The women of Delta Zeta in 1973, at which time the sorority's size was still relatively competitive.

efforts of all chapters, particularly unstable groups such as Delta Zeta. Alpha Epsilon Phi left the university in November 1973, and another Drake sorority, Alpha Xi Delta, found itself facing an uncertain future.¹⁴

Problems of reduced membership were compounded for Delta Zeta by a tendency of older chapter members—those who generally provided leadership—choosing not to reside in the chapter house. Finding it increasingly difficult to fill the residence and thus make payments on the 1963 addition, in 1974 the decision was reached that the sorority's Cottage Grove address could no longer be maintained.

The attempt to locate a suitable property on 34th Street between Forest and University avenues—an area which had been Drake's "Greek Row" since the mid 1960s—did not initially meet with success. Private residences, although available, were too costly to convert; homes appropriate for group living were already occupied by other organizations. After extended debate and study the sorority alumnae negotiated a lease for an apartment building located at 1300 34th Street, which had been constructed in 1968.

Initially intending for the apartment arrangement to serve as temporary housing, the sorority rented approximately five furnished apartments. While an additional unit was rented to serve as a chapter room, and a sign near the property's sidewalk identified

the dwelling with the sorority, the apartments proved to be no substitute for an independently operated sorority house. There was no house mother; members did not eat meals together; and non-members also resided in the building. Membership recruitment continued to be unsatisfactory, and the number of apartments rented to house the chapter was gradually reduced.

Nineteen Delta Zetas returned to Drake University in the fall of 1978; following rush, the sorority had increased its membership by only two women. The following semester, Delta Zeta proved unable to secure even a single additional member. Graduation cost the chapter a number of its few remaining members; others, perhaps sensing the unalterable failure of Gamma Epsilon, opted not to return to the campus in the fall.

On August 29, 1979, immediately after a second unsuccessful rush, Jane Hubbard '80, Gamma Epsilon chapter president, contacted the sorority's national office, stating that "since there are only six women returned this fall to Gamma Epsilon chapter the need for national assistance speaks for itself."¹⁶ The chapter specifically requested a visitation by a representative of the national organization; a live-in advisor; the facilitation of increased alumnae involvement; and assistance in the relocation to a permanent residence.¹⁷ In concluding, the chapter's president indicated that although the sorority's membership did not desire to leave the Drake campus, "if we

receive no assistance from national headquarters we will be left with no choice." When the national sorority did respond by sending Vice President of Membership Carolyn Barnes Gullatt (Theta Epsilon, Louisiana Tech) to Drake in September 1979, it was soon learned that the chapter's situation was beyond recovery. Shortly thereafter, Gullatt contacted Drake University to the effect that

After conferring with our national Council,

we regretfully have placed Delta Zeta at Drake on a temporary inactive status. Our chapter members have been placed on alumnae status at their request. We do eagerly look forward to returning to Drake as soon as possible.¹⁸

During its 33 years at Drake University, Delta Zeta initiated approximately 500 women.

¹Although it might be argued that the greatest opportunity for establishing a chapter at Drake University was in the 1920s when permission was granted for local organizations to affiliate with nationals, this initial expansion involved a high degree of risk. There were many national fraternities and several sororities who believed that a chapter of their organization could not thrive on the Drake campus. It was not until the conclusion of the worst years of the Depression that the contrary became evident.

²According to figures published by the Office of the Registrar, fall enrollment of female students for 1945, 1946, and 1947 was 683, 1142, and 1709 women, respectively.

³In the early fall 1945, the Panhellenic Council informally discussed the addition of another sorority to the Drake campus. Alpha Chi Omega, Gamma Phi Beta, Phi Mu, Pi Beta Phi, and Delta Delta Delta were all mentioned as possibilities.

⁴"The Drake Times-Delphic," February 21, 1946, which covered the pledging ceremony, indicated that Delta Zeta was hopeful of obtaining additional women and had scheduled a second ceremony for February 26. However it was not until the March meeting of Delta Zeta's alumnae chapter that two final pledges were inducted. One, Mary Farris, was a graduate of Drake University and state supervisor of home economics education. She would become the chapter's sole alumna initiate.

⁵"The Lamp of Delta Zeta," vol. 35, no. 4 (1946), p. 218.

⁶Helen Atkinson, Joyce Babcock, Betty Cysewski, Loie Ehlert, Phyllis Friend, Virginia Hoffman, Barbara Keenan, Jacqueline Keller, Ruth Kirby, Darlene Nelson, Beverly Nord, Bonnie Swope, Marie West, Marlys Fitzgerald, Joyce Innes, Joan Lowry, Martha Richards, and Mary Farris (alumna).

⁷Curiously, Theta Upsilon was absorbed by Delta Zeta in 1962.

⁸Minutes, Drake Panhellenic Council, May 20, 1946.

⁹Records show that Marguerite Havens' husband George made a \$500 down payment on the home. It is unknown if the \$500 constituted a gift to the sorority or if Havens was later reimbursed.

¹⁰In the fall of 1957 (before formal rushing), sorority membership was as follows: Alpha Epsilon Phi, 10; Alpha Xi Delta, 32; Chi Omega, 29; Delta Gamma, 32; Delta Zeta, 29; Kappa Alpha Theta, 32; and Kappa Kappa Gamma, 33. While Alpha Epsilon Phi was smaller than both Chi Omega and Delta Zeta, its membership was in essence limited to women of the Jewish faith. For most of its history Alpha Epsilon Phi did not actively compete with the other sororities for members.

¹¹Minutes, Drake Panhellenic Council, May 22, 1957.

¹²Alpha Epsilon Phi was chartered at Drake in 1952; Alpha Phi's establishment in 1958 brought the total number of national sororities on campus to eight.

¹³*The Quax*, Drake University, 1968, p. 238. Unfortunately, records do not indicate the actual number of women pledged by the sorority.

¹⁴Alpha Xi Delta closed in May 1976, with a membership of approximately 12 women.

¹⁵The sorority had hoped to eventually convert one of the family residences on 34th Street into a chapter house.

¹⁶Jane Hubbard, to Betty Heusch Agler, executive secretary, Delta Zeta, August 29, 1979.

¹⁷Collegiate members investigated a property at 1246 31st Street.

¹⁸Carolyn Gullatt, to Jocelyn Phillips, president, Drake Panhellenic council, undated.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Marilyn Hirschman Baker '57, Mary Ann McMannus, and Kay Morrow Wright.

Gamma Gamma Gamma

Founded December 1905 at Drake University. The organization did not operate beyond 1906.

GAMMA GAMMA GAMMA might have lasted more than a year had it not been so open about its own existence. While Gamma Gamma Gamma was the second local sorority to be organized at Drake University, the first, Epsilon Tau Sigma, kept its identity well hidden, thus allowing it to escape the wrath of an anti-Greek administration.

Founded in approximately December 1905, "it was supposed to be a secret that the new 'frat' had an existence at all."¹ Unfortunately, President Hill M. Bell learned of the group's operation only weeks after its establishment, and informed its members that "they could not meet and hold secret initia-

tions and still retain their membership in the classes at school."²

Realizing that the president's threat was not an idle one, Gamma Gamma Gamma stripped itself of any Greek-letter society characteristics. The initiation ceremony was eliminated, and the organization changed its name to the Denis Club. The Denis Club appears to have functioned for the remainder of the school year; a group picture of its 11 members was included in the 1906 university annual. Subsequently, there is no record of what was to become the shortest-lived Greek organization in the history of the campus.

¹"The Des Moines Daily Capital," January 11, 1906.

²Id.

Gamma Phi Beta

Founded November 11, 1874, at Syracuse University. Total charter grants: 120, of which 96 remain active. Total initiates: 83,000. Colors: light brown and dark brown; flower: the pink carnation.

The Drake colony organized September 30, 1967; installed as the 92nd or Gamma Upsilon chapter of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority February 17, 1968; declared non-operating May 1983.

GAMMA PHI BETA's failure to achieve long-term success at Drake University stands as one of the great ironies of the history of the campus' Greek-letter social organizations. Gamma Upsilon chapter was established during Drake's most prosperous era,¹ consistently received assistance from a highly supportive national organization, benefited from the direction provided by a competent local alumnae group, and initiated a number of women who proved to be outstanding undergraduate leaders. Most notably, the chapter weathered the "sorority depression" of the 1970s, during which three groups were lost.² Yet for reasons which remain largely unclear, Gamma Phi Beta never achieved the popular success and prestige known by Drake's older and more established sororities.

The first sign of interest Gamma Phi Beta expressed in Drake occurred in the early 1920s, when the university was first opened to national groups. Representatives of the sorority inspected the campus situation, but later declined any further consideration; having organized two chapters and an alumnae group in Iowa³ during the preceeding five years, Gamma Phi Beta feared that it might overextend itself in the area. A quarter of a century later, in 1946, Gamma Phi Beta took a more serious interest in the university; a field secretary, Evelyn Gooding (Omicron, Illinois), "visited the Drake campus April 7 to 9 in the interest of the expansion department."⁴ Apparently encouraged by Gooding's findings, on April 18, 1946 Mary Harris (Alpha Alpha, Toronto), chairman of extension and National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) delegate, notified Dean of Students George S. Beery that "Gamma Phi Beta unanimously approves of establishing a chap-

ter at Drake University at this time." Beery's response directed the sorority to file a formal statement to request the establishment of a chapter, which Gamma Phi Beta in turn submitted on May 6, 1946. However, the national organization was subsequently informed that Drake "could not accommodate any new colonization,"⁵ at least for the time being; the addition of a chapter of Delta Zeta in the spring of 1946 had brought sorority membership to an equilibrium, and the university's female enrollment was not expected to increase due to a shortage of housing. Upon further inquiry by Gamma Phi Beta in April 1947, the university reiterated its position that "no permission will be granted for the remainder of this year for any group to colonize."⁶ S. C. Tiedeman, chairman of the Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, indicated that "if there is a change . . . we will give your request sincere consideration"⁷; yet in 1948, Phi Mu was given permission to revive its inactive Zeta Delta chapter at Drake without the review of Gamma Phi Beta's request to colonize.⁸ Similarly, when Alpha Phi requested permission to establish a chapter at Drake University in 1957, Drake "asked no other group and were as much in favor of Alpha Phi as anyone."⁹

Apparently, Drake did not again hear from Gamma Phi Beta until the fall of 1964, at which time the sorority renewed its interest in establishing a chapter on campus. In reviewing the request, the Drake Panhellenic concluded that "if we do not grow, independents will take over,"¹⁰ and on December 1, 1964 unanimously voted in favor of permitting Gamma Phi Beta to colonize. However, in the same month Gamma Phi Beta surprisingly and without explanation announced

that it would "not be asking for admittance on Drake's campus."¹¹

In the spring of 1967, Drake University notified Gamma Phi Beta that it was still welcome to organize a group on campus. The offer was immediately followed by "a unanimous vote of [the] Panhellenic membership [which] pledged support to the establishment of a Gamma Phi Beta chapter at Drake."¹²

ities; Karla Baur Tillotson (Omega, Iowa State), president, Des Moines Alumnae Chapter; Elna Simons and Marjorie Cunningham. The affair was followed throughout the week with informal "coke dates." A second rush party was held on Wednesday, September 27 at the Alpha Phi chapter house, 1236 34th Street. Rushing activities culminated on Friday, September 29 with a prefer-



The 58 women pledged to the Drake colony of Gamma Phi Beta on September 30, 1967.

The invitation was formally accepted by the sorority's National President Ardis McBroom Marek (Epsilon, Northwestern) on May 27, 1967. Marek assigned Elna Erickson Simons (Alpha Rho, Birmingham Southern), director of extension, to coordinate plans for the fall colonization with Associate Dean of Students Marjorie Cunningham.

The arrival of Gamma Phi Beta's colonization staff was preceeded by the circulation of a flyer announcing the plans for the establishment of the new chapter. Published as a supplement to the Panhellenic rush brochure, the flyer informed potential Drake sorority members that "Gamma Phi Beta deserves your consideration too, for becoming a member of a new chapter is a challenge and an opportunity."¹³ Membership recruitment for the colony began on September 24, 1967—several days following the conclusion of the formal Panhellenic rush—with a "Panhellenic open house tea," held at the Kappa Kappa Gamma chapter residence, 1305 34th Street. Local Gamma Phi Beta alumnae and representatives of the Drake Panhellenic served as hostesses for the event. Present at the tea were Jean Gillmore Cline (Beta Upsilon, Kansas State), director of collegiate activ-

ence party held in the social hall of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 3424 Forest Avenue, with representatives of Gamma Phi Beta's Iowa State (Omega) chapter and local alumnae serving as hostesses. The party's theme, "Gamma Phi Beta Heaven," was carried out with the appropriate decorations.

Recruitment efforts proved successful, and on Saturday, September 30, 58 women were pledged to Gamma Phi Beta. Kathryn Carroll, president of the Iowa State chapter, conducted the pledging ceremony which was held in St. Luke's; assisting were collegiates from the Iowa State chapter and local alumnae. Following the ceremony, a finger luncheon was held in the social hall of the church. The first meeting of Gamma Upsilon colony, as the group was named, was held on October 2, 1967, in the Morehouse Dormitory meeting room. Gamma Phi Beta Field Secretary Claire Danielson (Beta Psi, Oklahoma State), who would remain with the group until its installation as a chapter, was introduced.

Immediately the colony sought and obtained campus recognition. In October 1967, after being in existence for only a single month, the group captured first place honors

for its performance in the annual Sweetheart Sing competition. In deference to the outstanding accomplishment, the Greek community gave the colony a standing ovation at the Greek Awards Reception. To aid the colony in its assimilation into campus life, the Junior Panhellenic Council created a new position on its executive board, that of corresponding secretary, so that a representative from the new group would have an opportunity to serve as an officer.¹⁴ During its first semester, Gamma Upsilon colony participated in Greek Week, Homecoming, and various public service projects; attended several exchanges with other campus groups; and held a formal dinner-dance. Area Gamma Phi Beta alumnae served as "pledge moms" to the colony members, offering guidance and encouragement to the group.

Recognizing that continued progress would necessitate housing for the colony, sorority alumnae investigated the availability of property near the Drake campus. A private home was located at 1218 34th Street, which was situated at the south end of what had become known as "Greek Street." The residence was purchased by Gamma Phi Beta in December 1967. Although the house was not suitable for occupancy by the sorority until the following fall, during the interim period the membership of Gamma Upsilon colony studied and conducted informal meetings in the future chapter residence.

The installation of Gamma Upsilon colony as Gamma Upsilon chapter of Gamma Phi Beta took place during the weekend of February 16-18, 1968. On Friday, February 16, an informal reception was held at the home of Janice Marshall Fitzgibbon (Pi, Nebraska), 721 54th Street. Among those attending the reception were National President Marek, Extension Director Simons, National Secretary-Treasurer Eleanor Sieg (Rho, Iowa), Foundation Board President Mary Jane Hipp Misthos (Alpha Phi, Colorado College), and area official Marilyn Park Hawthorne (Beta Eta, Bradley). The following morning colony members gathered at St. Luke's Church for individual meetings with national officers. Later that afternoon 38 women were initiated as the charter members of Gamma Upsilon chapter.¹⁵ Presiding over the ceremony, which was also held in St. Luke's, was Ardis Marek, who was assisted by 26 collegians from the University of Iowa (Rho) chapter. Following the initiation, the members of Gamma Upsilon observed the demonstration of a model chapter meetings. Saturday evening a banquet was held to honor the installation of the Drake chapter; conducted at the

Hotel Kirkwood, some 120 members of Gamma Phi Beta were in attendance. On the morning of Sunday, February 18, the new chapter attended religious services at St. Luke's. That afternoon an installation reception was conducted in the Administration Lounge of Old Main; among the gifts presented to the chapter was an opal-set badge of Gamma Phi Beta, which had been worn by Lou-lou Mann Gray,¹⁶ an initiate of the Northwestern (Epsilon) chapter who had graduated in 1898. The badge became Gamma Upsilon's president pin.

Maintaining an enviable level of campus involvement during the two years following its installation, in 1969 Gamma Upsilon again won top honors in Sweetheart Sing, in addition to receiving the Panhellenic scholarship award for both semesters of the 1969-70 school year. Individual chapter members were recognized for a variety of contributions they had made to the university, and it appeared that Gamma Upsilon had earned a respected position within the Drake Greek community. After growing to a membership of more than 60 women by spring 1969, Gamma Phi Beta soon found it necessary to obtain additional housing for its initiates. A small residence located at 1314 34th Street was secured as an annex in 1970.¹⁷

The year of 1970 brought to Drake University a freshman class which was less interested in fraternity life than its immediate predecessors. As the number of men and women choosing to affiliate declined, most chapters faced drastic change. Gamma Phi Beta was no exception; the sorority's membership dropped to 47 women in 1971. By the mid-1970s the chapter, along with the three smallest sororities on campus—Alpha Epsilon Phi, Alpha Xi Delta, and Delta Zeta—comprised the lower level of a two-tiered organizational hierarchy. Drake's larger sororities, which found themselves at the top of the hierarchy, enjoyed relative stability and popularity, while the sororities in the lower level watched as their remaining prestige eroded away. Additionally, the smaller sororities came to realize that the more prestige that they lost, the more impossible it became to combat their slipping strength and image. It eventually became apparent that escape from the lower level of the hierarchical system was in fact impossible; in spite of their best efforts, four sororities would leave the Drake campus between 1973-83.

Of the disappointing number of fatalities from the "sorority depression" of the 1970s, in hindsight Gamma Phi Beta appears to

have had the best chances for survival. This belief is evidenced by Gamma Upsilon's extended struggle, during which its repeated accomplishments reminded the Drake Greek community that the chapter had not given up its spirit of achievement. Yet in spite of the fact that beginning in 1974 the chapter received the Greek Involvement Trophy for three consecutive years, by the middle of the decade Gamma Upsilon had lost its "rising star" image, and the rapid momentum which had made that image possible. Finding it increasingly difficult to pledge quota¹⁸ during formal rush, the chapter was forced to place increasing reliance on informal membership recruitment.

Perhaps the first reason Gamma Upsilon attributed to its failure to maintain pace with the more successful sororities on campus was its lack of competitive housing. The chapter residence, although attractive, was inadequate in terms of size and function. In February 1975 these shortcomings were remedied to some extent when Gamma Phi Beta alumnae—perhaps encouraged by a slight gain in chapter membership—approved the construction of an addition to the existing home. The construction increased the chapter house capacity to 40 women and included additional study and recreation areas. These changes made in Gamma Upsilon's living environment may have had an effect on its membership recruitment that fall; while other campus sororities experienced a decrease in size, Gamma Phi Beta's rush pushed its membership to over 60 women for the first time in three years—and, incidentally, for the last time in its history.

Yet disappointment returned. In the fall of 1977, Gamma Upsilon pledged 12 women during the formal recruitment period, five short of the campus average. As had been noted, the chapter had become somewhat accustomed to falling short of quota; but by 1977, Alpha Epsilon Phi and Alpha Xi Delta, which had likewise proven unable to make strong showings during formal rush and thus had spared Gamma Upsilon from feeling that it was solely inadequate, had become inactive. In 1979, Delta Zeta likewise became an inactive chapter, leaving a total of six sororities on the Drake University campus. Five of these groups were clearly stable, and in most regards, successful; one, Gamma Phi Beta, had a questionable future. It became clear that drastic action would be required to ensure that the university's youngest sorority would continue to function.

The situation at Gamma Upsilon was responded to in part with the appointment of

Sue Genskow (Kappa, Minnesota), by the national organization, as a resident counselor for the 1979-80 school year. Unfortunately, the efforts of the counselor met with minimal success, as personality conflicts developed between Genskow and chapter leaders. Membership, which continued to decrease, stood at 44 women in the spring of 1980. Reminded of its own mortality by the recent loss of Delta Zeta, Gamma Upsilon clarified its need for special assistance to the national organization.

Over the course of the next two years, Gamma Upsilon experienced a mixture of worthy accomplishment and continued frustration. The chapter further decreased in size and was faced with the task of fighting off rumors of its impending "folding," but as in previous years Gamma Phi Beta excelled in campus involvement. On January 24, 1981 Gamma Upsilon was notified that it had been placed under "supervision" by Gamma Phi Beta, a classification which recognized the weaknesses of the chapter and required it to submit detailed reports to the national organization. In the fall of 1981 Gamma Upsilon fulfilled one of the supervision requirements, that of "scholastic excellence," by receiving the Panhellenic scholarship for the first of two consecutive semesters. During the 1981 Greek Week, the chapter also won the newly-created Sheree L. Clark Award for the first of two consecutive years, recognizing its outstanding participation during the annual festivities.

In the fall of 1981, Gamma Upsilon conducted the least successful rush in its history; the sorority attracted only three of the 157 women pledged during the formal recruitment period. Gamma Phi Beta remained uncertain as to what, if anything, could be done to reverse the chapter's situation. During the December 1981 annual meeting of the Association of Fraternity Advisors/National Interfraternity Conference in St. Louis, NPC Delegate Gloria Swanson Nelson (Psi, Oklahoma), and National Vice President Ann Mullen Bronsing (Beta Pi, Indiana State) approached Drake Coordinator of Greek Life Sheree L. Clark to learn of her thoughts on the prospect of Gamma Phi Beta's professional staff undertaking a special recruitment effort to benefit Gamma Upsilon. Clark, who noted the large number of unaffiliated women on campus and the fact that Gamma Upsilon was not burdened with a negative reputation, endorsed the proposal. Early in 1982 Janet Jones (Psi, Oklahoma) made a chapter visitation to Gamma Upsilon. Based upon her findings, Gamma Phi Beta devised

a plan for its "revitalization and reorganization" on the Drake campus. A goal of acquiring 15-20 new members was established, which was felt would adequately rejuvenate the chapter; at the time, Gamma Upsilon's membership numbered some 35 women, with nine expected to graduate at the close of the school year. In March 1982, immediately prior to the spring recess, a series of full-page advertisements announcing "Gamma Phi Beta: Opportunity" was run in three consecutive issues of *The Drake Times-Delphic*; the message was reiterated in posters distributed about the campus. Following the solicitation of the names of Drake's leading unaffiliated women from the Panhellenic Council, individual chapters, and the Office of Greek Life, Gamma Phi Beta's National President Karen Wander Kline (Omega) contacted over 100 of the individuals recommended through a letter, which stated in part that

As a recognized leader on the Drake University campus, you have been recommended as someone who may be interested in new OPPORTUNITIES.

Along with the several other international officers I will be visiting Drake University . . . for the purpose of revitalizing and reorganizing the Gamma Upsilon chapter of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority. I would very much like to talk with you at the time about the many OPPORTUNITIES Gamma Phi Beta offers you.

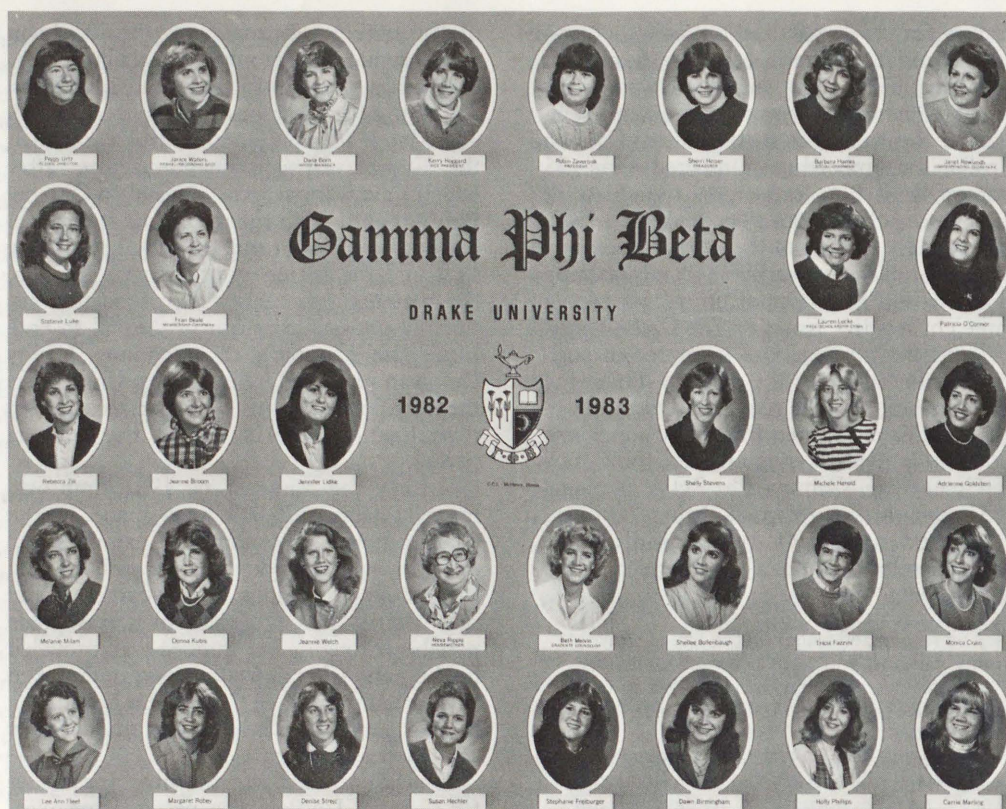
Gamma Phi Beta's rush and promotion team—which was composed of National President Kline; Extension Supervisor Nancy Donovan (Beta Gamma, Bowling Green); area official, Kris Baack (Pi, Nebraska); and Field Secretaries Janet Jones and Terry Kennedy (Chi, Oregon State)—arrived in Des Moines on March 22, 1982. The following day they conducted a convocation, in the Drake University Olmsted Center; approximately 35 women attended the event, which consisted of a slide show and a discussion on Gamma Phi Beta led by Karen Kline. During a reception which followed, interested individuals scheduled personal interviews which were held over the next two days. The team worked extended hours, interviewing disappointingly few rushees, while also meeting with the undergraduates and alumnae of Gamma Upsilon to establish plans for the future. On Wednesday, March 24, a luncheon was held in the Olmsted Center, honoring Drake women—affiliated as well as independent—who held campus leadership position. Undertaken at the expense

of the national organization, the luncheon was intended to promote goodwill and to establish a new Drake tradition, in addition to fueling the revitalization efforts. On Friday, March 26, a preference party was held at the Gamma Upsilon chapter house, after which nine women were pledged to Gamma Phi Beta. Although the results did not reflect the degree of effort put forth by the visiting staff and the members of Gamma Upsilon, the national organization remained optimistic and pledged to return in the fall to continue the chapter's revitalization. Nancy Donovan remained with Gamma Upsilon for the remainder of the semester to conduct revitalization efforts during the interim period.

During the summer of 1982, improvements totaling \$20,000 were made in the chapter house. The complete exteriors and interiors of the residence were painted, and the entire main floor was re-carpeted and refurnished. The project, which was made possible through a low-interest loan provided by the national organization, was undertaken in an attempt to place the chapter house on a more competitive level with other Drake sorority residences.

The fall of 1982 was the pivotal semester for Gamma Upsilon; the national organization had reached the determination that if a significant revival did not take place within the chapter, Gamma Phi Beta would leave Drake University. Part of the plan for success included the appointment of Beth A. Melvin (Alpha Theta, Vanderbilt), who was entering the Drake University Law School, as resident counselor. Additionally, a rush team composed of the newly-elected National President Ann Mullen Bronsing, Field Secretaries Barb Hurt (Gamma Kappa, Kearney), and Sandy Pursley (Gamma Mu, Moorhead), and collegiate members of Omega chapter, arrived on campus in late August 1982 to assist Gamma Upsilon during the formal rushing period. The team played an active role in the chapter's recruitment process, which concluded with the frustrating news that Gamma Upsilon had managed to attract only five of the 107 women pledged to Drake's sororities.

The uncertain future of Gamma Upsilon was resolved in a chapter meeting held on September 21, 1982, at which Ann Bronsing and Kris Baack were in attendance. After some two hours of deliberation, the undergraduate chapter reached the decision to "close its doors in May 1983."¹⁹ The unwelcomed news was first announced at a meeting attended by all fraternity and soror-



Gamma Upsilon's membership from 1982-83, the last school year during which Gamma Phi Beta operated a chapter at Drake University.

ity presidents held on the following day; a formal statement was subsequently published in *The Drake Times-Delphic*. The statement noted in part that Gamma Upsilon "would like to thank the Drake community and especially the Greek system for their support during our attempt at reorganization."²⁰

Although the announcement of Gamma Upsilon's impending closing came early in the school year, the chapter remained active in Greek and campus affairs until the conclusion of the 1983 spring semester. The sorority participated in Sweetheart Sing and other Greek Week events; initiated its fall pledge class; and hosted a collegiate/alumnae cook-out during the Drake Relays. But most notably, the chapter maintained a high level of dignity up until the day it came to "close its

doors." While the failure of a sorority had become all but a commonplace event at Drake University during the 1970s, the loss of Gamma Upsilon was widely felt. This was perhaps due to the fact that Gamma Phi Beta did not wait until its Drake chapter had become so debased that it operated as a sorority in name only; instead, the charter was relinquished while the memory of Gamma Upsilon's commitment, creativity, and contributions remained clear and unquestioned.

Gamma Upsilon initiate Mary Neel '81, was a member of Gamma Phi Beta's traveling staff from 1981-82.

During its 16 years at Drake University, Gamma Upsilon initiated 292 women.

¹Drake University's enrollment reached an all-time high of 7918 students in 1965. Enrollment surpassed 7300 for the remainder of the decade. These figures reflect part-time, as well as full-time enrollment.

²During the 1970s, Drake University lost three sororities in three-year intervals: Alpha Epsilon

Phi, 1973; Alpha Xi Delta, 1976; and Delta Zeta, 1979.

³Rho (Iowa), 1915; Omega (Iowa State), 1918; Des Moines Alumnae Chapter, 1919.

⁴Mary Harris, extension chairman, to George S. Beery, dean of students, Drake University, April 18, 1946.

⁵George S. Beery, to Mary Harris, June 1, 1946.

⁶S. C. Tiedeman, counselor for men, Drake University, to Ursula A. Owen, extension chairman, Gamma Phi Beta, April 28, 1947.

⁷Id.

⁸At the time of the request, Phi Mu had already obtained 38 women who desired to reactivate the sorority.

⁹T. Wetherell, state chairman, Alpha Phi, to Doris A. Corbett, executive director, Alpha Phi, March 30, 1957.

¹⁰Minutes, Drake Panhellenic Council, November 4, 1964.

¹¹Minutes, Gamma Omicron chapter of Alpha Phi, December 7, 1967.

¹²Panhellenic Council, Drake University, to Gamma Phi Beta, May 9, 1967.

¹³The "opportunity" theme was repeated during Gamma Upsilon's unsuccessful revitalization of 1982.

¹⁴The constitution of the Drake Panhellenic limited membership to fully installed chapters of national organizations. Gamma Upsilon colony, however, was eligible for full membership in the Junior Panhellenic.

¹⁵Charter members included: Maria P. Bailey, Carol Baum, Yvonne Bess, Patricia Bohrer, Ann Marie Brazelton, Mary Calder, Margaret Ann Chapman, Jean Clure, Katharine Craig, Patricia M. Crawford, Marion Dierkes, Joan Dillon, Joan

Dufel, Elizabeth Dunlap, Joan A. Dunn, Janelle Funte, Anita Marie Gerardi, Jennifer Green, Caroljean Haussman, Marilyn Henderson, Perry Payne Jenkins, Anita Johnson, Sally J. Karraker, Pat Korengel, Susan M. Lidik, Delores Main, Beverly Meyer, Darla Nordstrom, Margaret Ohrt (president), Mary Oudsema, Nancy Rigler, Janet Sargent, Marion Smith, Denise Stevens, Louise Stumfa, E. Christine Vance, Jacquelyn C. White, and Sandra White.

¹⁶The badge was a gift of Gray's daughter, Luvern Gray Shiffler '36, an initiate of the Drake chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta.

¹⁷In 1973, the annex was leased by Pi Kappa Alpha; apparently, Gamma Phi Beta had become unable to fill its second home, due to a decrease in membership. However, the number of the chapter's initiates continued to exceed the capacity of the chapter house, and some members took up residence in an apartment complex located at 1300 34th Street.

¹⁸Quota is defined as the number of women each sorority may pledge during formal rush. This number is set and agreed upon by the members of the Panhellenic.

¹⁹"The Drake Times-Delphic," September 28, 1982.

²⁰"The Drake Times-Delphic," October 1, 1982.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Jule Lutz Thorsen '79, and Ann Mullen Bronsing.

Kappa Alpha Theta

Founded January 27, 1870, at Indiana Asbury (now DePauw) University. Total charter grants: 127, of which 103 remain active. Total initiates: 117,381. Colors: black and gold; flower: the black and gold pansy.

Beta Chi Upsilon founded April 14, 1907; installed as the 60th or **Beta Kappa** chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity April 30, 1921.

KAPPA ALPHA THETA was among the small minority of national sororities which took advantage of the opportunity to establish chapters at Drake University in 1921. Even prior to the lifting of the prohibition against national organizations by the Drake University Board of Trustees, the sorority was developing an appreciation for the benefits which awaited it on the campus. In time, Kappa Alpha Theta became so impressed by Drake that it would have readily accepted any of three local sororities which had expressed interest in it. Through a strange turn of events any possible conflict among the three campus groups was avoided; the national organization succeeded in placing a chapter at Drake; and ever since Kappa Alpha Theta has played an active and involved role in the student life of the university.

The local sorority which Kappa Alpha Theta did come to charter was Beta Chi

Upsilon. Established on April 14, 1907, the founding members of Beta Chi Upsilon included Hazel Burroughs '08, Beatrice Buxton '07, Mary Faye Lucas '10, Vesta Peak '10,¹ and Mable Swanson '08. As Greek-letter social societies were banned during this period, the abbreviated name of B.C.U. was adopted for public use. In 1909 the university attempted to discourage the further activity of fraternities which had organized over the course of several years; included in a set of stringent rules regulating the campus "social clubs" was a requirement that "the unrelated letters of some alphabet"² could no longer be utilized as an organization's name. In complying with the ruling, most women's groups merely added a suffix to their existing names. Beta Chi Upsilon, however, conformed in a unique way by adopting a completely new name, *Dionosi*, which is thought to have been derived from the Greek goddess Dione. To some extent Beta Chi Upsilon's creativity



The earliest known photograph of Beta Chi Upsilon appeared in the 1908 edition of the university annual, The Quax, and included three of the sorority's founders.

went unnoticed, as informally the sorority continued to be referred to as B.C.U., which was perhaps a commentary on the effectiveness of the club regulations.

In 1911, when the university suggested that students might assist in an endowment campaign, Beta Chi Upsilon was the first fraternity or sorority to respond to the call. The organization staged an original musical comedy entitled *My Divinity*, which revolved around the activities of two fictional Greek-letter social societies. The production was directed by Genevieve Wheat-Baal, professor of singing and advisor to the sorority.³ A total of \$180—an amount “probably larger than that earned by any home talent production that has been presented in Drake for some years”⁴—was presented to the endowment fund by Beta Chi Upsilon. Favorable reviews of the play occupied the pages of *The Drake Daily Delphic* for several days.⁵

One year later Beta Chi Upsilon's alumnae formally organized the first graduate group among Drake's sororities. The alumnae met on a monthly basis for a “luncheon, with the various members acting as hostess, and a business meeting and literary program followed by a social hour.”⁶ In addition to publishing a quarterly newsletter for all of its members, the alumnae association assisted the undergraduate organization with the publication of its own annual journal, *The Beecu*.⁷ An extremely active and supportive group, Beta Chi Upsilon's alumnae had grown to 149 women by the time the sorority petitioned Kappa Alpha Theta in 1921.

Beta Chi Upsilon's colors were lavender and white; its flowers were the violet and the lilly-of-the-valley. The sorority may have operated housing as early as 1911, but the first address attributed to the organization is 1068 29th Street, in 1913. In the fall of 1914 Beta Chi Upsilon relocated to 1091 26th Street; one year later the organization again moved, taking up residence at 2911 Brattleboro Avenue. The sorority remained at this address until 1918, at which time it relinquished the operation of housing.

Drake University slowly accommodated the desire of its students to organize and hold membership in fraternal organizations. During the 1913-14 school year local fraternities and sororities were finally approved; seven years later the university conceded to allow the campus groups to affiliate with national organizations. Soon thereafter confusion abounded, as both the local groups and the national organizations rushed to attract the superior organizations. This “race” was not in complete disorder, however, as Drake

President Arthur Holmes established guidelines for sorority selection. One of the requirements was that sororities, on a “first come, first served” basis, designate the national organization which they sought to attract, so as to avoid competition for the same charter.

On March 18, 1920, Beta Chi Upsilon gave official notice of its interest in Kappa Kappa Gamma. Shortly beforehand the Drake local sorority Epsilon Tau Sigma had signified that it was contemplating affiliation with Kappa Alpha Theta, which in turn had initially expressed interest in another campus group, Iota Alpha Omega. Iota Alpha Omega, however, had made it clear that it desired to become a part of Delta Gamma. In actuality this was satisfactory to Kappa Alpha Theta, as any of these three organizations were believed to constitute suitable chapter material.

Just as it appeared that all concerned parties were content, a most surprising turnaround materialized. On April 19, 1920, the very day on which Bonnie Marshall (Alpha Delta, Goucher), president of the local alumnae organization and state chairman of Kappa Alpha Theta, was scheduled to assist Epsilon Tau Sigma in the preparation of a petition to the national organization, “there was a break in [Epsilon Tau Sigma's] ranks caused by much pressure brought by Kappa alumnae of their own group and others.”⁸ Epsilon Tau Sigma proceeded to instead petition Kappa Kappa Gamma, the effect of which left

the poor B.C.U.s in the lurch for they were signed up for Kappa and were in correspondence with the Kappa Grand Council . . . B.C.U. should yet get Theta. They wanted to sign up for Theta from the beginning.⁹

On May 13, 1920, Beta Chi Upsilon did in fact decide to seek a charter from Kappa Alpha Theta, although university regulations prevented the group from actually submitting a petition for another nine months. The national organization, however, immediately lent its support and encouragement to Beta Chi Upsilon; two area officials, Helen Ertle and Margaret Hoose (both Alpha Iota, Washington-St. Louis) traveled to Drake in the fall of 1920 and assisted the local sorority in obtaining 18 new members. The Des Moines Kappa Alpha Theta alumnae organization, established in 1920, also provided support and assistance to Beta Chi Upsilon.

Beta Chi Upsilon completed its petition to Kappa Alpha Theta on January 29, 1921. On

March 17, 1921, the Drake sorority learned that the petition had been accepted, only three days after Epsilon Tau Sigma itself had received word of its approval by Kappa Kappa Gamma. As there were no pledge pins of the national organization immediately available, the women of Beta Chi Upsilon wore black and gold ribbons, representing the colors of Kappa Alpha Theta.

Coinciding with Kappa Alpha Theta's approval of the placement of a chapter at Drake University was the acceptance of a petition submitted to the national organization by a local sorority from the University of Colorado. The two groups were subsequently installed during the same week and became known as "the Twins of 1921."¹⁰ Beta Chi Upsilon was destined to become the second chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta installed in the State of Iowa, although the first, located at Simpson College (Theta), operated from only 1879-91.

The installation sequence of Beta Chi Upsilon as Beta Kappa chapter began on Thursday, April 28, 1921, with a formal pledging ceremony for undergraduate and alumnae members.¹¹ The event, which was presided over by National Vice President Marjorie Benton Haviland (Gamma, Butler), was held in the home of D. H. Buxton, located at 1355 30th Street.¹² Buxton, a renowned engineer, was chairman of the Drake University Board of Trustees and also the father of two of the women which were pledged to Kappa Alpha Theta. On the following afternoon, the alumnae of Beta Chi Upsilon, along with the three seniors of the undergraduate group, were initiated into Kappa Alpha Theta at the home of Bonnie Marshall, 1210 Eighth Street, under the direction of National Secretary L. Pearl Green (Phi, Stanford). The ceremony was followed by a buffet supper with the Des Moines alumnae of Kappa Alpha Theta at the Marshall residence, which preceeded the initiation of the remaining undergraduate members.¹³

A convention of area chapters was conducted at the home of Bonnie Marshall on April 30. The meeting, which was attended by delegates from Kappa Alpha Theta chapters located at Illinois (Delta), Northwestern (Tau), and Washington-St. Louis, was led by area official Genevieve Forbes (Tau). The official presentation of Beta Kappa's charter marked the conclusion of the event, which was followed by attendance at a Panhellenic tea. Conducted at the Cotillion Ballroom, the tea was hosted by Chi Omega, Delta Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Kappa Kappa

Gamma—the four sororities which had been installed over the course of the weekend—and the national officers of each respective organization. Over 500 individuals attended the event, which represented the culmination of efforts to bring national sororities to Drake University. Following the tea, the Kappa Alpha Theta delegation attended a banquet served in recognition of the installation of Beta Kappa chapter. Held in the Venetian Room of the Hotel Savery, the banquet was attended by over 100 women. Featured guests at the affair included Marjorie Benton Haviland, L. Pearle Green, Bonnie Marshall, Eva R. Hall (Tau), national cataloger, Katherine Coville Woodburn (Psi, Wisconsin), of the Des Moines Alumnae Chapter, and the charter members of Beta Kappa. A series of "stunts" or skits were performed by collegiate members from Illinois, Washington-St. Louis, and South Dakota (Alpha Rho). Each banquet table was decorated by a May pole with streamers of black and gold radiating out to small dolls wearing headbands bearing the words *Beta Kappa* and dressed as the fraternity's flower, the pansie. Installation festivities were concluded Sunday afternoon with a model chapter meeting and tea at the home of Beatrice Buxton Swanson, 5223 Waterbury Road, a Beta Chi Upsilon founder and charter initiate.

The first task Beta Kappa undertook following its installation was the acquisition of a chapter house. After a year of effort, housing was finally secured; on September 14, 1922, the chapter held a dinner in honor of its accomplishment, and invited alumnae of the organization to

drop in at the modest but attractive Kappa Alpha Theta house, 2840 University [Avenue]—the big white house with the Romeo and Juliet balcony and the black and gold lamp shedding soft rays through the wide old fashioned windows.¹⁴

Beta Kappa enjoyed limited privileges at the house, including use of the sitting room for parties and permission of the property's owner to conduct one social event per month. Ten women each paid \$12.50 monthly for the privilege of residing in the chapter house, which included a partial meal plan and the services of a house mother. At the conclusion of the 1922-23 school year, a house fund was begun and the investigation for the purchase of a permanent chapter residence was launched. Three alumnae contributed a total of \$75 to begin the fund, and all undergraduate members were required to sign promissory notes which provided for the

payment of \$10 annually for 10 years.

In the spring of 1923 the national organization requested that Beta Kappa evaluate the local sorority Alpha Chi Beta, located at Iowa State College (now University), which was petitioning Kappa Alpha Theta. During this period, and to some extent even today, it was common practice among national sororities to require the approval of all area chapters prior to issuing a charter to a petitioning group. In April 1923 two of Beta Kappa's officers accepted Alpha Chi Beta's invitation to attend its annual dinner-dance in Ames; the Drake women were less than impressed, as they reported to the national office that

Beta Kappa recognizes the merits of Ames and the fact that Theta is rather lonely in Iowa, but believe us truly when we express the opinion decidedly negative to Alpha Chi Beta in the bigger interest of Kappa Alpha Theta.¹⁵

Apparently the national organization placed a great deal of credence in Beta Kappa's comments, as the petition of Alpha Chi Beta was denied.¹⁶ Kappa Alpha Theta did not install a chapter at Iowa State (Gamma Pi) until 1948.

During the remainder of the 1920s, Beta Kappa widened its involvement in campus activities and continued to search for ade-

quate housing, relocating three times in the process. However, the progress which Kappa Alpha Theta had grown to enjoy at Drake University was suddenly interrupted by the Depression; in 1931, Beta Kappa received the lowest financial rating of any chapter of the national organization in the area. Beset by an unworkable budget and fearful that the lease on the chapter house might be lost, Beta Kappa undertook a series of drastic financial measures. The salary of the house mother was reduced by three dollars per week, chapter dinners became chapter potlucks, and an attempt was made to collect the delinquent accounts of undergraduate and alumnae members. These efforts to achieve chapter stabilization proved successful, and within a year the sorority was in a position to seriously consider the acquisition of a property located at 1320 34th Street, which had recently been made available by the closing of Alpha Chi Omega.¹⁷ However, Tau Kappa Epsilon was able to secure the residence first, and Beta Kappa instead moved from 3721 Cottage Grove Avenue to 1080 31st Street.

Aside from the well-executed management which likely saved Beta Kappa from extinction in the early 1930s, the chapter's greatest achievement during the decade was its scholastic superiority. Beta Kappa received the



The Des Moines Register

Beta Kappa went to great lengths in decorating its chapter house for a Drake-Grinnell football game of the late 1920s.

Des Moines Women's Panhellenic Association Scholarship Trophy for ten consecutive years (1930-40),¹⁸ which remains the longest period that a single Greek-letter social organization has been awarded top academic honors at Drake University.

By the 1940s, Beta Kappa had yet to obtain satisfactory housing. In 1940, the chapter moved to 3125 Kingman Boulevard, only to return to 1030 31st Street three years later. During the 1944-45 school year, Beta Kappa leased the Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter house, located at 1235 34th Street; the fraternity had relinquished its residence in 1942 for use by the Army Air Corps Cadets, the last of which completed their on-campus training two years later. Sigma Alpha Epsilon moved back into its home in the fall of 1945, and Beta Kappa relocated to 2916 Cottage Grove Avenue.

In 1947 Beta Kappa finally secured permanent housing, but not without first encountering a fair amount of legal difficulty. Problems arose from the fact that the property the sorority desired to occupy, located at 1335 34th Street, had been zoned for residential use only. Although two organizations—Alpha Xi Delta and Sigma Alpha Epsilon—did in fact operate chapter houses on 34th Street, the former group had eluded enforcement of the ordinance, while the latter's presence had been established prior to its effective date. Alpha Xi Delta and Sigma Alpha Epsilon willingly joined with Kappa Alpha Theta in its request that all of 34th Street between Forest and University avenues be rezoned for multiple residence dwellings, which the City Plan and Zoning Commission granted and the Des Moines City Council ratified on October 9, 1947. The zoning change, however, was subsequently rescinded, when irate residents of the area who opposed the presence of fraternities demonstrated that notice of a hearing on the petition to rezone had not been published as required by law. On a rehearing of the issue, the city accommodated the desires of the neighborhood residents by denying the requested change in zoning. Fortunately, Beta Kappa was able to purchase the house, as it was granted a zoning variance which allowed the chapter to maintain its otherwise impermissible housing arrangement.¹⁹ Major renovation was performed on the property during the 1957-58 school year.

Many of Drake's sororities have been able to claim members of beauty and charm; Kappa Alpha Theta has been well-endowed with this attribute, particularly during the 1950s; each "Miss Drake" from 1953-56 was

an initiate of the chapter. In 1956, Beta Kappa initiate Carol Morris '58 progressed from being crowned Miss Iowa to Miss U.S.A. to Miss Universe.²⁰ Morris' trophies



Miss Universe, 1957: Beta Kappa's own Carol Morris.

were proudly displayed by Beta Kappa that fall during its membership recruitment activities. Judy Ann Olson '62 was crowned Miss Minnesota in 1959, and in 1963 Joleen Wolf '65 became the second member of Beta Kappa to be named Miss Iowa.

In the fall of 1964 Beta Kappa purchased a house located at 1319 34th Street, which was situated immediately south of the sorority's existing residence. The property, which was acquired at a cost of \$13,000, was to be joined to the existing chapter house, although the project was not completed for a decade. Minor internal reconstruction was undertaken on the property immediately following its acquisition, and soon "the annex" was housing a portion of the chapter's overflowing membership. It became a small adventure to reside in the annex; its occupants particularly enjoyed the large swing inside the screened front porch. A second house mother, who supervised the annex after dusk, was employed by Beta Kappa



Kappa Alpha Theta, Drake University, fall 1982.

until the fall of 1966, at which time the annex and chapter house were joined by an enclosed walkway. Near the conclusion of 1973 the actual merger of the two properties began, and was completed in mid-1974. Once the porch, attic, and all rooms within the annex were torn out, and the joining of the houses completed, an era had come to an end. The resulting structure's components were completely unrecognizable, the drastic change aided by the application of siding to

the finished product as well as the addition of a sleeping dorm, which has since been converted into individual suites.

From 1980-82, Maurine Bredimus Harkins '24, who in 1921 became a member of Beta Kappa's first pledge class, served as the chapter's house mother.

During its 62 years of operation at Drake University, Kappa Alpha Theta has initiated 1251 women.

¹Peak later married T. Collin Denny, who is believed to have been one of the founders of the Drake local fraternity Tau Psi, while her brother George A. Peak was instrumental in the formation of Phi Gamma Lambda in 1912. Beta Chi Upsilon Founder Beatrice Buxton married Fred Swanson, brother of Founder Mable Swanson, and a founder of the Drake local fraternity Gamma Sigma Kappa.

²Minutes, Drake University Board of Trustees, February 9, 1909.

³Wheat-Baal advised Beta Chi Upsilon from 1909-21, and played a central role in its early development. She left the Drake faculty in 1959 after having taught music at the university for 50 years.

⁴"The Drake Daily Delphic," February 16, 1912.

⁵For almost a decade, "My Divinity" was staged more or less on an annual basis. In 1917 proceeds from the event were presented to the Young Men's Christian Association War Fund.

⁶"Petition of Beta Chi Upsilon, Drake University, to Kappa Alpha Theta," January 29, 1921, p. 2.

⁷Upon the university's approval of fraternities and sororities in 1914 the publication became "The Beta Chi Upsilon."

⁸Mary Rosemond, past national vice president, Delta Gamma, to Leulah Judson Hawley, secretary-editor, Delta Gamma, May 7, 1920.

⁹Id. Rosemond, a local alumna who was assisting Iota Alpha Omega in becoming affiliated with Delta Gamma, also noted that Epsilon Tau Sigma had "at least whipped the 11 [members] who stood out for Theta into line and that everything is now going smoothly for them."

¹⁰Estelle Riddle Dodge, *Sixty Years in Kappa Alpha Theta* (Menasha, Wisconsin: The Collegiate Press, 1930), p. 174. The Colorado group, Delta Chi Zeta, was installed as Beta Iota chapter.

¹¹Only a small number of Beta Chi Upsilon's

alumnae were invited to become charter members of Kappa Alpha Theta, resulting in "a good many hurt feelings among the B.C.U. alums. It has never been made clear to them how the choosing was done and they will not be comforted." Mary Rosemond, to Leulah Judson Hawley, May 24, 1921.

¹²The impressive home, which was known as the Lochroft Mansion, later served as a chapter house for Alpha Tau Omega and Tau Kappa Epsilon. Following its conversion to a university dormitory, Lochroft was the site of the first meetings conducted by the Drake colonies of Pi Kappa Phi and Theta Chi.

¹³Undergraduates initiated as the charter members of Beta Kappa included Marcella Allen, Juanita Baumann, Dorothy Brown, Marian Brown, Cora Leach Bunz, Margaret Lee Casady, Florence Kern Engberg, Marjorie Gillam, Marion Green (president), DeEtte Gracey, Theodora Hafner, Mary Hutchins, Georgia McClelland, Norma Moore, Ethel Myers, Marie Rockwell, Inez Richard, Marjorie Smith, Vivian Willett, Winifred Willett.

Alumnae initiates consisted of: Marie Buxton Bruner, Carol Conklin, Lela Carson, Marcella Moody Knudson, Bess B. Richard, Gladys Bradford Rosson, and Beatrice Buxton Swanson. Louise Wickersham, professor of piano and faculty advisor to Beta Chi Upsilon, was also initiated as an alumnae member. Beatrice Buxton Swanson was one of the five women who had organized Beta Chi Upsilon in 1907.

¹⁴Lucille E. McKee, editor, Beta Kappa, to Kappa Alpha Theta, September 28, 1922.

¹⁵Lucille E. McKee, president, Beta Kappa, to Jessie Baldrige Lebrecht, national vice president, Kappa Alpha Theta, May 7, 1923.

¹⁶In 1926 the local sorority became Beta Zeta chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha. The chapter was declared non-operating in 1940.

¹⁷The Drake chapter of the Alpha Chi Omega relinquished its charter in October 1933.

¹⁸The award took into account the average of a chapter over the school year, rather than calculating scholarship on a semesterly basis. It is indeed possible that other organizations surpassed Beta Kappa's scholastic average sometime during the 20 semesters or 10 years in which Kappa Alpha Theta received the award.

¹⁹In 1959 the Iowa Supreme Court ruled that the granting of such variances—in this case to Alpha Phi—was unconstitutional. The decision, however, did not affect Beta Kappa, as it was not retroactive in scope. Later in the same year the entire street was rezoned for multiple dwellings.

²⁰Morris also received the honor of being named "Most Popular Girl" at the international pageant.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Gold Burr Bruns '10, Lela Carson '20, Elsie Holbrook Kelley '10, Connie Taylor Mendrys '69, and Nancy Weess, executive secretary-treasurer, Kappa Alpha Theta.

Kappa Kappa Gamma

Founded March 1870 at Monmouth College. Total charter grants: 130, of which 113 remain active. Total initiates: 125,000. Colors: light and dark blue; flower: the fleur-de-lis.

Epsilon Tau Sigma founded October 15, 1903; installed as the 57th or Gamma Theta chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity April 30, 1921.

KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA is the holder of numerous campus sorority "firsts." In 1922 the Drake chapter, Gamma Theta, became the first recipient of the Des Moines Women's Panhellenic Association Scholarship Trophy; in 1940, the chapter was awarded the first Drake Panhellenic Council scholarship cup. Gamma Theta initiate Bernice Bramhall '22, became the first president of the Drake Panhellenic Council upon the body's establishment in 1921; Jean Wendlandt '43, became the first Drake woman to be selected as Relays Queen in 1943; and Kathryn Graf '74, served as Drake's first female student body president during the 1973-74 school year. Epsilon Tau Sigma, the local organization which became Gamma Theta, was the first Drake sorority known to have maintained housing; the first to receive word of its acceptance by a national fraternity; and the first enduring Greek-letter social organization to be organized on campus.

Epsilon Tau Sigma—which secretly stood for *Ever True Sisters*—was founded on October 15, 1903, by Irene M. Campbell '05, Portia Clark '04, Kate Macomber '05, Ada Pilmer '06, Faye Remick '05, Anna Ryan '05, Katherine Ryan '09, and Gertrude White '05.

Due to the strong and long-standing university policy against fraternities and sororities, Epsilon Tau Sigma shielded its identity by publicly using the name E.T.S. Much of the initial history of the organization went undocumented as a result of the prohibition, although it is known that early on Epsilon Tau Sigma chose green and white as its colors, and the white carnation as its flower. Epsilon Tau Sigma, as E.T.S., was included in the 1906 edition of the university annual, *The Quax*,¹ and during this same period *The Drake Delphic* occasionally made reference to the affairs of "E.T.S."

In 1909 the university, in an attempt to dispel a troublesome number of Greek-letter social societies which had been secretly organized over the course of several years, enacted a series of stringent rules over the extra-curricular activities of its students. One of the regulations prohibited campus groups from utilizing "the unrelated letters of some alphabet"² as their names. Epsilon Tau Sigma responded to the edict by adding the suffix *is* to its pseudonym E.T.S., becoming *Etsis*.³ Although the university slowly softened its position on fraternities and sororities, and had acquiesced in the use of Greek-letter names by the end of 1913, it was not



Epsilon Tau Sigma became the first Greek-letter social organization to appear in the university annual, The Quax, upon the inclusion of this photograph in the 1906 edition.

until the fall of 1914 that the sorority openly utilized the designation of its founders, Epsilon Tau Sigma.

In the fall of 1910 Epsilon Tau Sigma began operating a clubhouse at an unrecorded address on Brattleboro Avenue. Between 1911-13 the sorority relocated on no fewer than three occasions. At the conclusion of the 1913-14 school year, Epsilon Tau Sigma relinquished the lease on its 26th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue residence; the sorority would not again maintain housing until after its installation as a chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Hill M. Bell, the major opponent of Greek-letter social societies at Drake, resigned as president of the university in the spring of 1918. With the appointment of his successor and fraternity initiate Arthur Holmes on September 1, 1918, came the hope that national organizations would be permitted to establish chapters on campus. Shortly thereafter Epsilon Tau Sigma began investigating the prospect of affiliation; early in 1919 the sorority's membership discussed their findings, deciding that "Theta, Kappa, and Delta Gamma secured the order of preference."⁴ Later during the same semester there was some interest expressed toward Alpha Phi within the organization,⁵ but at a special meeting conducted in April 1919 "for purpose of definite decision on national" Epsilon Tau Sigma held a vote which was "unanimous for Kappa Alpha Theta."⁶

During the year which followed, campus groups campaigned for the privilege to petition national fraternities and sororities. Upon endorsement of the proposal by Drake students, alumni, faculty, and trustees, approval was granted on February 18, 1920. Immediately, a rush ensued where the Drake local sororities attempted to attract the attention of the strongest and most popular national organizations; the university attempted to minimize the confusion and competition by requiring that campus groups designate on a "first come, first served" basis the national sorority with which they wished to affiliate. Almost immediately, Epsilon Tau Sigma gave notice of its intent to become a chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta.

Shortly after Epsilon Tau Sigma had expressed its aspiration, the Drake local sorority Beta Chi Upsilon informed the university of its desire to become a chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma. Beta Chi Upsilon, along with Epsilon Tau Sigma and Iota Alpha Omega, was one of "only three locals on the campus recognized as national fraternity material";⁷ local alumnae of Kappa

Kappa Gamma, impressed by the group and anxious to assist in its acceptance by the national organization, came together and formed the Des Moines Alumnae Association of Kappa Kappa Gamma on March 29, 1920.⁸ During this same period the alumnae association sent a delegation to confer with the University of Iowa chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma (Beta Zeta), in an attempt to gain support for the pending petition. All things considered, it is highly likely that Beta Chi Upsilon would have in fact been installed as a chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma, had a strange turn in events not taken place.

Bonnie Marshall, president of the Des Moines alumnae group of Kappa Alpha Theta, was scheduled to meet with the membership of Epsilon Tau Sigma on April 19, 1920, to assist it in the preparation of a petition to the national organization. However, due to the influence of Epsilon Tau Sigma alumnae who had been initiated into Kappa Kappa Gamma upon transferring to other institutions and a group of local Kappa Kappa Gamma alumnae who preferred the sorority over Beta Chi Upsilon, Epsilon Tau Sigma's membership of 22 women had become equally divided on the issue of whether to petition Kappa Alpha Theta as was planned, or to instead pursue affiliation with Kappa Kappa Gamma. Much to Marshall's disappointment, she learned that "the Kappa faction had control of E.T.S. and were sending girls to Iowa City to talk to the Kappa chapter,"⁹ thus preventing the preparation of a petition to Kappa Alpha Theta. Upon securing a favorable vote from the University of Iowa chapter and "whip[ping] the 11 who stood out for Theta into line,"¹⁰ Epsilon Tau Sigma proceeded to petition Kappa Kappa Gamma. Ultimately, this proved satisfactory to Beta Chi Upsilon, which was in the process of preparing a petition to Kappa Kappa Gamma, as it "wanted to sign up for Theta in the beginning"¹¹ and now was presented with the opportunity to do so.

Although by the end of the 1920 spring semester the conclusion had been reached that "Kappa is undoubtedly going in with E.T.S.,"¹² the national organization nonetheless sent its national vice president, Estelle Kyle Kemp (Beta Mu, Colorado), to inspect Drake University—and Epsilon Tau Sigma in particular—in the fall of 1920. Presumably encouraged by the findings of Kemp's visit, in early 1921 Epsilon Tau Sigma formally petitioned Kappa Kappa Gamma. On March 14, 1921, Epsilon Tau Sigma received a letter from Della Lawrence (Beta Xi, Texas),

national secretary of Kappa Kappa Gamma, indicating that its petition had been accepted. Although Epsilon Tau Sigma became the first Drake sorority to learn that its efforts of achieving national affiliation had been successful, few were surprised of this fact; the appeal of Epsilon Tau Sigma coupled with the longstanding and intense interest Kappa Kappa Gamma had maintained in the university prevented the announcement from being treated as a major event.

While Kappa Kappa Gamma was obtaining final approval of Epsilon Tau Sigma, Delta Gamma and Kappa Alpha Theta were likewise polling their chapters on the desirability of entering Drake University. Within 10 days of the receipt of Kappa Kappa Gamma's letter of acceptance by Epsilon Tau Sigma, the two latter national sororities had sent similar announcements to their petitioning groups at Drake, permitting an earlier agreement between the organizations "whereby all three fraternities will establish chapters at the same time, and by doing so, demonstrate to the world that there is democracy and cooperation among fraternities"¹³ to be carried out.

The installation of Epsilon Tau Sigma as Gamma Theta chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma began on Friday afternoon, April 29, 1921, with the initiation of 18 charter members.¹⁴ The ceremony, conducted in the home of Catherine Green Riley (Beta Zeta), 2626 Forest Drive, was directed by Sara B. Harris (Upsilon, Northwestern), national president of Kappa Kappa Gamma. In the evening, the Des Moines Alumnae Association of Kappa Kappa Gamma hosted a dinner at the Harris-Emery Tearoom. On April 30, a model chapter meeting was conducted at the Riley residence, after which Epsilon Tau Sigma's 10 pledges were initiated into the national organization. That afternoon charter member Dorothy Kirk '23, daughter of Drake Professor Sherman Kirk,¹⁵ held a luncheon in her parents' home, located at 1060 31st Street. The group next attended a Panhellenic tea at the Cotillion Ballroom, which was hosted by Chi Omega, Delta Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Kappa Kappa Gamma—the four sororities which had been installed over the weekend—and the national officers of each respective organization. The event recognized the long and hard-fought effort to bring national sororities to Drake University, and was attended by over 500 individuals.

A banquet in honor of the installation of Gamma Theta chapter was held on the evening of April 30 in the Ivory Ballroom of the Hotel Fort Des Moines. Approximately 150 women were present for the event, making it

the largest installation banquet in the history of Drake's sororities. Featured guests included Sara B. Harris;¹⁶ Rachael Boyd Swan (Omicron, Simpson), president of the Des Moines Alumnae Association; Minnie Cole Conaway (Iota, DePauw), a representative of the Cedar Rapids Alumnae Association; and 35 members of Beta Zeta chapter, who had assisted with the installation. Seating consisted of one table in the shape of the letter "K"; "individual silver pots of spring flowers were the favors and the placecards took the form of miniature parasols in rose lavender."¹⁷

On Sunday morning, May 1, a joint meeting of Beta Zeta and Gamma Theta was held at the home of Gretchen Koenigsberger (Beta Zeta), 1327 Penn Avenue. National President Harris presided and formally installed the chapter's first officers. Later that same morning, Gamma Theta was represented at a model Panhellenic Council meeting; lots were drawn to determine the order in which the new chapters would assume responsibility for the council's presidency.¹⁸ Kappa Kappa Gamma drew the lowest number and thus became the first sorority to assume the executive position. The installation festivities for Gamma Theta were concluded that afternoon with a reception hosted by Beta Zeta chapter at the Hyperion Country Club.¹⁹

At the conclusion of the 1921-22 school year, Gamma Theta was presented with the first Des Moines Women's Panhellenic Association Scholarship Trophy, an award which was established in honor of the advent of national sororities at Drake University. This early recognition of Gamma Theta's scholarship would mark a precedent for the chapter, as it would receive academic honors for over one-third of the semesters during the 60 years which followed.

In the fall of 1922 Gamma Theta acquired a chapter house located at 1063 21st Street; Epsilon Tau Sigma had last maintained a residence during the 1913-14 school year. The chapter's stay on 21st Street was short lived, with Gamma Theta relocating on no fewer than three occasions between 1923-25 in a search for adequate housing. Finally in 1928 the chapter located a suitable residence at 3425 Kingman Boulevard, where it would remain for over 30 years.

Gamma Theta's impressive progress was interrupted in the spring of 1929 when the chapter was found to have distributed its "date books"—pamphlets listing social activities incidental to membership recruitment—one week prior to the date set by a Panhel-

lenic Council rush agreement. As a result of the infraction, Gamma Theta was prohibited from contacting, bidding, or pledging prospective new members during February 2-11, 1929. Although it is not known if the punitive measure severely hampered the chapter's acquisition of pledges later in the semester, it appears to have done little to deter Gamma Theta from committing subsequent rush violations, as future events would demonstrate.

The stock market crash of 1929 had an almost immediate effect upon Drake University. Fraternity and sorority chapter houses which had previously been filled to capacity were experiencing a large number of vacancies, and the difficulty many students encountered in making tuition payments placed Greek affiliation beyond their grasp. Matters were complicated for campus sororities by the opening of the Women's (Morehouse) Dormitory, a university imposed one-year pledge period, a large number of women enrolled in two-year programs, and the failure of the Panhellenic Council to balance membership through the establishment of a limitation system. During the Depression two sororities left Drake University, and two others teetered on the brink of dormancy; Kappa Kappa Gamma, while perhaps the strongest group during the period, did not go unscathed. On February 28, 1931, Gamma Theta called an emergency meeting in an attempt to avert an impending financial crisis within the chapter; among those in attendance were Marie Bryden Macnaughton, national registrar, and Anna Rummell Arrowsmith (both Theta, Missouri), an area official. Examining its situation, the chapter identified three possible courses of action:

First, to close the house immediately. Second, for the town girls to each move in the house for two weeks. Third, that we close the house the first week in May and each town girl be responsible for one house girl as her guest for the remaining time.²⁰

Gamma Theta's membership selected the third alternative; however, through a series of other sacrifices, the chapter's financial situation improved and the plan proved unnecessary.

In the fall of 1932, as Gamma Theta was achieving further stabilization in its operations, the chapter was again cited for a violation of the Panhellenic Council rush rules. Three women had indicated that they desired to pledge Kappa Kappa Gamma, but the chapter had failed to invite any of them to become members "because they thought the girls wanted to join the other sorori-

ties."²¹ The three rushees declined bids from other groups and subsequently were pledged to Kappa Kappa Gamma, resulting in a violation of "Rule No. 26" which stated that "a rushee not accepting a preferred bid must go unpledged for a semester."²² In response to the violation, the Panhellenic Council "decided in a special meeting that the Kappas couldn't have the three girls in question, at least not until after the first half of the school year."²³ The chapter disagreed, asserting that "the girls had not refused any invitation they had sought,"²⁴ as opposed to the refusal of an invitation that the rushees had "personally preferred," and that thus Rule No. 26 was inapplicable. The Panhellenic Council refused to accept the argument, whereupon Gamma Theta "exercised the feminine prerogative,"²⁵ by resigning its membership in the body, and sending telegrams to the other member sororities which declared that

Until the council can assure this chapter of impartial and fair treatment in all interfraternity matters, this fraternity will not participate in the activities of the Panhellenic Council.²⁶

The claims and accusations continued for another month until October 17, 1932, when—with only two hours of a readmittance time specified by the National Panhellenic Congress remaining²⁷—Gamma Theta was readmitted to the Drake Panhellenic Council. Although the chapter was permitted to retain as pledges the three women which were at the center of dispute, Gamma Theta was lightly disciplined by being required to place a moratorium on initiations until March 1, 1933. This edict was handed down by the Panhellenic Council's faculty advisors; it is quite possible that Gamma Theta would have been treated more harshly had the undergraduate groups dealt the blows.

By all accounts, the entire incident was soon forgotten. Gamma Theta turned its attention to more constructive endeavors, and by the late 1930s most traces of the chapter's previous financial woes had disappeared. Gamma Theta won its first Sweetheart Sing competition in the spring of 1939. In the spring of 1940 the chapter managed to wrestle the scholarship trophy away from Kappa Alpha Theta, which had received the award for 10 consecutive years; over the three semesters that followed, Kappa Kappa Gamma would continue to have the highest scholarship of all Drake sororities. On April 30, 1941 Gamma Theta burned the 12-year-old mortgage on its Kingman Boulevard

chapter house, which had been financed through "a long-term corporation formed by actives in the sorority,"²⁸ The event included a buffet supper, and was attended by a number of alumnae including two of Gamma Theta's charter members. Shortly thereafter a new wing was added to the house, providing an enlarged kitchen and dining area and sleeping accommodations for 18 women.

Throughout the 1940s, Kappa Kappa Gamma continued to grow and achieve. The chapter again exhibited scholastic superiority by receiving the Drake Panhellenic scholarship trophy for six consecutive semesters, from 1944-47. In the fall of 1951 Gamma Theta became the largest sorority at Drake University with 47 members. It was during this same semester that the chapter was charged with its third and most widely-publicized rush violation.

Although the charges involved in the rush infraction were quite minor, the furor that surrounded them created the most complicated rush incident in Drake Panhellenic history. On September 10, 1951 five of the six other campus sororities—Phi Mu singularly having chosen to abstain from the matter—presented complaints against Gamma Theta to the Panhellenic Council, all with the same basic charge: the breaking of silence.²⁹

More than ten hours of deliberations ensued, the result of which was a finding that Kappa Kappa Gamma had violated established rush rules. The penalties decided upon

by the Panhellenic were severe: Kappa Kappa Gamma's fall 1951 pledge class could not be formally pledged until December 15, 1951; the pledge class could not be initiated until fall 1952; and no further bids could be extended by the chapter until fall 1952.³⁰

Gamma Theta appealed the decision, and the matter was referred to the chairman of the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) Committee on College Panhellenics, Gladys Power. Records of the deliberations, including duplicate copies of notarized statements and testimony, were forwarded to Power on September 29; included was a letter from Gladys E. Koepke, director of student affairs for women at Drake University, which stated that

Our Kappa chapter has had an enviable place on our campus and to the best of my knowledge usually been able to choose its members with confidence. This factor together with the strong alumnae support that it has in Des Moines has meant that it enjoys a status not always felt by our other groups. It is unfortunate that when a group has such "drawing power" that it cannot also set a high standard for our other sororities by its adherence to the highest principles in its rushing procedures.

In response Power noted "penalties imposed by the Panhellenic Council on September 20, 1951 upon Gamma Theta chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma do not conform with the National Panhellenic Conference and the



The women of Gamma Theta, fall 1958.

Panhellenic Compact.”³¹ Power added that “justifiable penalties . . . must be made on the basis of further limited pledging or the deprivation of social privileges for the current school year.”

On October 10, 1951, the Panhellenic Council heeded the advice of the NPC and revised its penalties. Gamma Theta was allowed to pledge and initiate its fall 1951 pledge class at its discretion, but was denied any further rushing privileges until the fall of 1952.

The balance of the decade found Kappa Kappa Gamma in an enviable position on campus. Consistently one of the larger chapters at Drake, Gamma Theta excelled academically, frequently winning the coveted Panhellenic scholarship award; additionally, it received first place honors in Sweetheart

Sing on four occasions between 1955-60. In 1958 the final payment made on the loan which had been taken out to build the chapter house addition. Reflecting on Gamma Theta’s success, Marjorie J. Cunningham, assistant dean of students, commented that

There has been an intangible leadership exercised by Kappa Kappa Gamma at Drake. This is the positive thinking, the unselfish, unprejudiced leadership that influences campus thought and activity. Individual members of the chapter have also received recognition both at Drake and nationally for scholarship and other achievements. Drake University has learned to look to Kappa Kappa Gamma for intelligent student leadership.³²

In 1959 Gamma Theta’s membership stood at 60 women, of which fewer than one-third could be accommodated by the chapter house. Perceiving a “psychological problem to the chapter to have such a small percentage of the total membership living in the chapter house,”³³ alumnae sought alternative housing arrangements. In October 1959 a three-story red brick home, located at 1305 34th Street, was purchased for \$65,000. The house could accommodate 25 members, and included a two story-coach house at the rear of the residence and a suite of rooms for use by a house mother. Improvements costing \$10,000 were made to the building, including the conversion of a third-floor ballroom into a sleeping dormitory. In 1961 a three story addition was made to the structure at a cost of \$72,000. The addition increased the capacity of the house to 40 women.



The Des Moines Register

Kappa Kappa Gamma’s chapter house—which is among the most impressive at Drake University—shortly after its 1959 acquisition by the sorority.



The annual Kappa Kappa Gamma “Balloon Derby”—a charity fundraiser—has become a tradition at Drake.

By 1966, Gamma Theta's membership had reached 70 women. The chapter generally remained within the top quartile of campus scholarship, although its academic record was not as noteworthy as that of the previous decade. The chapter's campus involvement, while certainly significant, had likewise diminished.

Kappa Kappa Gamma was spared much of the hardship experienced by other groups during the "fraternity depression" of the early 1970s. The chapter, whose size and financial status remained essentially stable, had the additional benefit of an active and interested alumnae. The chapter successfully recruited new members, and by 1975 Gamma Theta had regained its reputation for outstanding scholastic achievement and campus involvement. In 1979 the Office of Greek Life rated Kappa Kappa Gamma as the "number one" sorority on campus.³⁴ The chapter had a total membership of 76 women in the fall of 1983.

Gamma Theta has received a number of national recognitions from Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity, including:

Outstanding Chapter Publications:	1960
Greatest All-Round Improvement:	1962
Excellence in Chapter Standards:	1970

A number of Gamma Theta's initiates have gone on to occupy positions of prominence. Florence Tomlinson Myers Wallace '26, provided leadership to the national organization as assistant executive secretary, 1927-28; national registrar, 1928-30; and national president, 1930-31. Additionally, Wallace served as international president of



Florence Tomlinson Myers Wallace: civic leader, Drake University trustee, and national president of Kappa Kappa Gamma (1930-31)

the P.E.O. Sisterhood from 1973-75. Marjorie Keys Amend '28, served as Kappa Kappa Gamma's director of membership 1946-48. Connie Ver Hoef Denton '57, was chosen Miss Iowa in 1953; Margaret King Priebe '46, was crowned Mrs. America in 1960.

During its 62 years at Drake University, Kappa Kappa Gamma has initiated 1228 women.

¹Technically, Epsilon Tau Sigma first appeared in the 1907 edition of *The Quax*, which covered the 1905-06 school year. This somewhat confusing arrangement was due to the fact that for a number of years the annual was compiled and published by the junior class, who used as the volume number their future year of graduation.

²Minutes, Drake University Board of Trustees, February 9, 1909.

³Subsequently, the sorority undertook the publication of a journal entitled "The Etsis."

⁴Minutes, Epsilon Tau Sigma, January 5, 1919.

⁵The minutes of Epsilon Tau Sigma's April 7, 1919 meeting state: "Alpha Phi held sway. Straw vote held Alpha Phi 10; Theta, 3." Omega Delta, another Drake local sorority, prepared a petition to Alpha Phi in the spring of 1920; the national organization ultimately declined to establish a Drake chapter at the time, although some correspondence suggests that Alpha Phi would have

willingly chartered Epsilon Tau Sigma. Alpha Phi did not establish a chapter on campus until 1958.

⁶Minutes, Epsilon Tau Sigma, April 20, 1919.

⁷An unsigned Des Moines alumna of Kappa Kappa Gamma, to Estelle Kyle Kemp, national vice president, Kappa Kappa Gamma, April 7, 1920.

⁸The alumnae association had originally been organized at the turn of the century, but was disbanded in October 1910.

⁹Bonnie Marshall, to L. Pearle Green, national secretary, Kappa Alpha Theta, April 21, 1920.

¹⁰Mary Rosemond, past national vice president, Delta Gamma, to Leulah Judson Hawley, secretary-editor, Delta Gamma, May 7, 1920.

¹¹Id.

¹²Mary Rosemond, to Delta Gamma, State University of Iowa, May 5, 1920.

¹³"Report of the Inspectors of Drake University and the J.A.O. to the Expansion Committee of Delta Gamma," undated.

¹⁴Bernice Bramhall, Agnes Buchanan, Isobel Helen Carothers, Isabel Childs, Anna Laura Clark, Margaret O. Clark, Anna Laura Copeland, Marian E. Kerr Devine, Doris Dickinson, Agnes Flach, Agnes Henderson, Dorothy Rosemary Kirk, Eleanor MacRae, Mary Martin, Eleanor Morning (president), Elizabeth Morning, Maxine Van Meter, and Gretchen Winterrowd.

¹⁵Sherman Kirk was an instructor of classical languages and literature at Drake University from 1897-1940. A dormitory on campus is named in his honor.

¹⁶Harris would return to Drake three weeks later to assist with the installation of Gamma chapter of Zeta Phi Eta, a national professional speech arts fraternity. Harris was dean of the Oratory Department at Northwestern University.

¹⁷"The Des Moines Sunday Register," May 1, 1921.

¹⁸The procedure described is called officer rotation; under this system the chapters with responsibility for providing a Panhellenic officer elect a representative to serve in that capacity.

¹⁹It is remotely possible that Gamma Theta was not the first chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma to be installed in Des Moines. The minute books of several of the national organization's chapters make mention of a group in Des Moines in the early 1880s, and convention minutes from 1882 record that Kappa Kappa Gamma "voted to recall the charter from Des Moines, Iowa." However, "a voluminous correspondence has been conducted extending over a considerable period of years in the hope of securing some definite trace of a possible chapter at Des Moines, some one note to whom the charter may have been sent, but all to no avail, for the only result has been a long list of testimonies that no chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma existed in Des Moines during the eighties." Florence Burton-Roth and May Cynthia Whiting-Westerman, *The History of Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity 1870-1930* (n.p.: Kappa Kappa Gamma, 1932), p. 29. If in fact there was an early collegiate chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma in Des Moines, it would have been located in either Callanan College, which for a brief period had a chapter of Pi Beta Phi, or Des Moines College, which did not officially permit fraternities until 1918.

²⁰Minutes, Gamma Theta chapter, Kappa Kappa Gamma, February 28, 1931.

²¹"The Des Moines Register," October 19, 1932.

²²Id. The story originally appeared on the front

page of the September 20, 1932 issue, and was aptly captioned "There's Bitter To-Do in this Sorority Join-Up Business, or, Story of Three Little Girls Who Wanted Kappa." "The Drake Times-Delphic" astutely observed that "when social sororities start pledging, funny things happen." The Panhellenic Council, apparently unappreciative of all the attention Gamma Theta had drawn, later charged the chapter with violating Panhellenic rules on publicity.

²³"The Des Moines Register," September 20, 1932.

²⁴Id.

²⁵Id.

²⁶Id.

²⁷In 1957 the NPC adopted the "College Panhellenics Agreement" which specifies in part that "a chapter of any National Panhellenic Conference fraternity shall not have the power to withdraw from its college Panhellenic Association." *National Panhellenic Conference Manual of Information*, tenth edition (1979). The agreement had been practiced in theory before its formal adoption by the NPC.

²⁸"The Drake Times-Delphic," April 29, 1941.

²⁹"Silence" is defined by the National Panhellenic Conference as a period in which there shall be no conversation or contact with sorority members and the rushee. This includes all reference to sororities: verbal, written, typed, or printed.

³⁰Minutes, special meeting of the Drake University Panhellenic Council, September 20, 1951.

³¹Gladys Power, to Bethel Hummel, president, Drake University Panhellenic Council, October 5, 1951.

³²"The Key of Kappa Kappa Gamma," Autumn 1959, p. 37.

³³Marjorie J. Cunningham, memo to the files, January 13, 1961.

³⁴In the spring of 1979 the Office of Greek Life ranked and evaluated all fraternity and sorority chapters at Drake University.

This section was written with the assistance of Florence Myers Wallace, Barbara Scheetz '83, and Catherine S. Graf, national historian, Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity. It is dedicated to Irene Mate Campbell, a founder of Epsilon Tau Sigma, whose enthusiasm for fraternity after the passage of some 80 years has been nothing short of inspirational to the authors.

Kappa Kappa Upsilon

Founded fall 1909 at Drake University. The organization did not operate beyond 1922.

KAPPA KAPPA UPSILON might be considered one of the less interesting of Drake's early local sororities if not for the unique origin of its name. When its founders were undecided as to what they should call their newly formed organization, they consulted a missionary who had recently returned from work in Japan; a Japanese expression, it was thought, would provide an element of desired secrecy. The missionary, a friend of one of the member's mother, suggested several names; the most appealing was *Kiku*, the Japanese word for chrysanthemum. In addition to having a meaning unknown to most, *Kiku* easily lent itself to a Greek-letter transposition; the derivation Kappa Kappa Upsilon became the secret name of the organization, while *Kiku Club* was publicly used to comply with the university prohibition against Greek letter societies.

In the fall of 1909, two music students became interested in forming a social organization for women within the Drake Conservatory of Music. Pearl Wardrip '10, and Mary Isabell "Mayme" Middleton '10, approached Drake President Hill M. Bell¹ for permission to assemble such a group; Bell instructed his secretary to assist the women in drafting a set of bylaws. Upon completion of the project, the university extended recognition to the *Kiku Club*. Joining Wardrip and Middleton as founders were Daisy Johnson '10, Edna Martin '11, and Rena Head '12. Membership initially was restricted to music students, but by 1912 Kappa Kappa Upsilon had become a general social sorority. The end of the decade would see the organization comprised largely of women in the College of Education.

The campus achievements of Kappa Kappa Upsilon went for the most part unrecorded. Although never one of the largest nor most prestigious of the campus sororities, Kappa Kappa Upsilon was a relatively stable organization during its existence. Like many

of Drake's early social societies, it faced repeated housing difficulties; following the procurement of its first residence located at 1336 25th Street in 1913, it relocated in 1914, 1915, 1916, and then in 1917 to a home outfitted with the furnishings of the ward-dissolved local fraternity Kappa Lambda. Kappa Kappa Upsilon's final move was to 1342 30th Street in 1921.

By 1920 Kappa Kappa Upsilon was experiencing severe financial difficulties and a significantly reduced membership. While most sororities were increasing their numbers due to a jump in university enrollment coupled with the anticipation of university permission to petition national sororities, Kappa Kappa Upsilon for some reason was unable to attract a sufficient number of new members. A letter, written by an alumna of the sorority and printed in the spring 1920 issue of the sorority annual *The Harp*, reflected the realization of the problems facing the undergraduates:

We have been in close touch with the girls and know some of the difficulties worked under. We acknowledge that many things could have been better, but under the stress of conditions, things have worked out as well as could have been expected. It is time for us all to profit by some of our past mistakes.

For Kappa Kappa Upsilon the "difficulties" increased during the 1920-21 school year, and while several other local groups were being accepted by national organizations, the sorority was coming to realize that nationalization was beyond its grasp. It is doubtful that Kappa Kappa Upsilon ever did put together a petition for a national sorority,² and when these groups did materialize at Drake, the local sorority was unable to compete.³ By the fall of 1921 Kappa Kappa Upsilon's membership had dwindled to six women, while the

average size of sororities on campus was 23 members. The sorority did not return to campus in the fall of 1922.

The colors of Kappa Kappa Upsilon,

old gold and green, were chosen to represent the sorority's flower, the yellow chrysanthemum.

¹In February 1909 the university stated that no additional "social clubs" could be organized without the approval of the president.

²The local sorority did, however, write letters of inquiry to various national women's fraternities, including Kappa Alpha Theta.

³Some members of Kappa Kappa Upsilon later became initiates of campus national sororities.

This section was prepared with the assistance of Pearl Wardrip Gibbons.

Omega Delta

Founded October 1907 at Drake University. The organization did not operate behind 1923.



The women of Omega Delta obey a photographer's directives, 1908. Founder Hallie Wilson is shown top, left.

OMEGA DELTA'S history, while not very eventful, is a unique one because of several ironies. Most notable of these is the fact that two of the local sorority's founders—several years after their graduation—helped another Drake organization to achieve national affiliation, which was an accomplishment beyond Omega Delta's ability to achieve.

The history of Omega Delta would be incomplete without the mention of another

local sorority bearing the same name. Two local sororities, each calling themselves Omega Delta, were founded at Iowa State College¹ and Drake University in the spring and fall of 1907, respectively. What might be written off as mere coincidence is complicated by the fact that Hallie Wilson '10, who attended Iowa State during the 1906-07 school year and is believed to have been among the eight women who founded Omega Delta on that campus, transferred to Drake in the fall of 1907 and is listed among the founders of the "second" Omega Delta. Additionally, the two groups occasionally held joint meetings.² However, the union, to whatever extent there was one, was short-lived as in 1912 Omega Delta at Iowa State successfully petitioned to become Omega Delta chapter of Delta Delta Delta.³

Drake's Omega Delta, first publicly known as the O.D. Club, was founded in October 1907 by Hallie Wilson, Vera E. Jordan '09, Marie Junkermier '10, Lois Sconce '08, Mary E. Connolly '09, Hazel Haskins '10, and Ada Mae Turner '11. In 1909, in order to comply with a recently adopted regulation which prohibited "the unrelated letters of some alphabet"⁴ to be used as a club name, the O.D. Club became known publicly as Odis. Early in 1912 an Omega Delta alumnae organization was formed.

The first recorded residence of the sorority was at 2909 Brattleboro Avenue in 1911. In the fall of 1912 the Odis Club moved to 1107 26th Street, a house located in an area which had become a "fraternity row" of sorts, with three or four other social groups residing in the same block. It was at the 26th Street address that Omega Delta became the fourth victim in a rash of fires that plagued Drake's local fraternities and sororities during the 1912-13 school year.⁵ The blaze, the result of a defective chimney flue, caused \$1000 worth of damage to the rented structure. For

the remainder of the school year Omega Delta operated out of 2837 Rutland Avenue; sometime in the late fall of 1913 the sorority relocated to 1075 26th Street. During 1913-14 the university allowed the use of Greek-letters for club names, and the Odis Club became free to make its "secret identity," Omega Delta, public.

Omega Delta found itself in a state of transiency during the 1915-16 schoolyear. Arrangements had been made for the rental of a house on 23rd Street, but the residence's overly paternalistic landlord made alternate accommodations a necessity. Relocating to 1107 26th Street, after several weeks the new arrangement proved equally unsatisfactory and for the remainder of the school year the sorority maintained a residence at 1118 26th Street. In the fall of 1916, Omega Delta moved again, for the fourth time in one year, to 1238 23rd Street. The following January a fire devastated the sorority house where eight of the members resided. No one was injured but damage estimated at \$3,000 was incurred.

While many of Drake University's 10 local sororities enjoyed measurable prosperity during the late 1910s, several appear to have lost momentum and prestige. Among this less fortunate group was Omega Delta; in the midst of World War I, its alumnae journal noted that

In looking over the roster of the alumnae of the Omega Delta sorority, we can feel both proud and regretful. Proud that some sixty more or less alumnae are out doing their part in a nation's time of need and regretful that we cannot bind ourselves into an organization that will keep touch with its members. With approximately twenty-five alumnae in this city, there has been less interest in the alumnae work than all the years when the chapter consisted of less than ten.⁶

Evidently the appeal went largely unheeded. Involved with careers, families, and a nationwide war effort, Omega Delta's alumnae had become disinterested in the activities and problems of the undergraduate group.

In February 1920, the trustees of Drake University voted to allow local fraternities and sororities to become affiliated with national organizations. Immediately the local groups began a courtship of sorts with the national they hoped to attract. Early in the quest for nationalization, Omega Delta hoped to secure a charter from Alpha Phi. In a March 30, 1920 letter to Omega Delta alumnae, Founder Vera E. Jordan stated that

to prepare the prospectus necessary to obtain the chapter, we must have information concerning our members. The prospectus is practically complete except for alumnae reports . . . we feel that sufficient energy on our part will secure this very good national.

There is no record of the petition actually reaching Alpha Phi; at any rate, it is likely that the conservative extension policy of the national organization would have precluded serious consideration of Drake as a possible chapter site.⁷ Alpha Phi was extremely cautious in its early extension, and in 1920 nearly all of its 24 chapters were located at large state universities or prestigious private schools. Drake, in addition to having a modest endowment, was located in a rural and geographically isolated area, making the institution appear a high risk to Alpha Phi and several of its contemporaries. Additionally, Omega Delta was not one of the more prestigious Drake sororities, nor was the alumnae organization as large or active as those of some of the other locals. It is doubtful that any other possibility for national affiliation was seriously investigated by Omega Delta. At one point there was discussion within the group regarding Pi Beta Phi, but no evidence exists to suggest that there was any follow-up.

In the fall of 1920 the sorority took up residence at 2718 University Avenue, its first home since the 1917 fire. The residence was large and attractive, and made even more appealing by the fact that it had formerly been the official home of the university president. President Arthur Holmes' preference for more modest accommodations made the home available for the sorority's use.

Four Drake locals were installed as chapters of national sororities in April 1921, and by the following fall two others had received charters.⁸ The remaining groups, unable to compete with the prestigious national chapters, began to dwindle in size. Omega Delta was able to remain considerably larger than the other local sororities for a short time, partially due to the fact that the other locals did not offer housing. Omega Delta could claim 28 members in the fall of 1921, while the campus average for sororities was 23 women.

Several factors combined to spell disaster for Omega Delta; a tendency to pledge upperclassmen; a high attrition rate within the ranks of the younger members; poor alumnae involvement; and a general lack of prestige which made the attraction of new members difficult. By the spring of 1923 the sorority ceased to function, and the lease was not renewed on the former president's home.

Before Omega Delta's demise, Vera Jor-

We are petitioning Alpha Phi and in order

dan, perhaps sensing that national affiliation was beyond the grasp of the sorority she helped to originate, was initiated into Phi Mu at its Xi (New Mexico) chapter on May 5, 1921. Jordan was in New Mexico on a leave of absence from her teaching position at Des Moines' East High School. In the spring of 1922, 15 Drake students founded Phi Sigma, a local sorority organized for the purpose of petitioning Phi Mu for a charter. Within one month of Phi Sigma's founding, work was begun to prepare a prospectus for Phi Mu. Included among the alumnae petitioners was Omega Delta Founder Hallie Wilson as well as Omega Delta initiates Ona Brockett Riggs '19, and Berenice Jordan '20 (Vera's sister).

Phi Sigma was installed as Zeta Delta chapter of Phi Mu in September 1922. Interestingly, Omega Delta was still in operation at the time.

The colors of Omega Delta were originally old gold and old rose, but were changed to white and gold in 1914, and finally to white and yellow in 1916. The sorority flower was the white carnation, until 1917 when the sunburst rose was adopted. In May 1916, Omega Delta held a Mother's Day party, in honor of mothers of initiates. The event—the first of its kind at Drake—served as a precedent for the other local groups, which soon adopted similar traditions.

¹Omega Delta at Iowa State College was founded on February 20, 1907. The sorority's colors were purple and lavender, its flower was the violet.

At least one other local sorority named Omega Delta is known to have existed at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. The Cornell group was organized in 1914.

²See: "The Drake Delphic," May 29, 1909.

³An Iowa State chapter—originally named Delta—of Delta Delta Delta operated from 1890-92, when the charter was relinquished as a result of anti-fraternity legislation. The chapter designation Delta was later presented to the Delta Delta Delta chapter at Simpson College (originally named Delta Deuteron), with the list of former Delta alumnae appended. Thus the previous designation of Delta chapter could not be given to the Iowa State group upon its re-establishment, and special permission was given the group to retain the name of the local, Omega Delta, as its chapter designation.

⁴Minutes, Drake University Board of Trustees, February 9, 1909.

⁵Three of the four fires were at 26th Street residences.

⁶"The Omega Delta," June 1918.

⁷Alpha Phi did send representatives to Drake in the early 1920s to investigate the campus. The visiting officers recommended against the university as a possible site for a chapter.

⁸Chi Omega, Delta Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta and Kappa Kappa Gamma were installed April 29-30, 1921. Alpha Chi Omega and Alpha Xi Delta were installed in 1921, on June 10 and September 10, respectively.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Ona Brockett Riggs; Bernice Silknitter '14; Nelle Masters Thompson '13; Annadell C. Lamb, national historian, Phi Mu Fraternity, and the national office staff of Delta Delta Delta Fraternity.

Phi Mu

Founded March 4, 1854, at Wesleyan College. Total charter grants: 184, of which 127 remain active. Total initiates: 85,000. Colors: rose and white; flower: the rose carnation.

Phi Sigma founded in February 1922; installed as the 44th or Zeta Delta chapter of Phi Mu Fraternity September 10, 1922. Chapter non-operating 1932-48; reinstalled December 4, 1948; non-operating following the spring 1952 semester.

PHI MU made two starts on the Drake University campus, the first from acceptance of the local sorority Phi Sigma, which became Zeta Delta chapter of Phi Mu in 1922. A decade later it became a casualty of the Depression. An attempt in 1948 to revive the chapter never realized the degree of success needed, and the chapter again assumed inactive status four years later.

Phi Sigma was founded at Drake University in February 1922 by "fifteen determined girls who were thoroughly convinced that such an organization could fulfill a real purpose in college life."¹ There is no indication that the group adopted its own insignia or initiation ceremony, but a motto, *Loyalty, Character, Truth*, was devised. While the desire to affiliate with Phi Mu was not offered as the express reason for Phi Sigma's establishment, it was easily implied; one month after its founding, Phi Sigma obtained the permission of the university to petition the national sorority. An impressive prospectus was submitted to Phi Mu which contained information about the accomplishments² of Phi Sigma, photographs of the campus and petitioners, and letters of endorsement from faculty and administrators. Among the 12 alumnae petitioners listed in the prospectus were Hallie Wilson '10, Bernice Jordan '20 and Ona Brockett Riggs '19, all three of whom were alumnae of another Drake local sorority, Omega Delta, with Wilson being one of Omega Delta's founders.³

There was a further connection between Phi Sigma and Omega Delta, which also involved Phi Mu. Another of Omega Delta's founders (and sister of alumnae petitioner Bernice Jordan), Vera E. Jordan, became an alumna initiate of the University of New Mexico (Xi) chapter of Phi Mu on May 5,

1921. Jordan was in New Mexico on leave from her teaching position at Des Moines' East High School. Upon Jordan's return to Iowa, she became the Phi Mu delegate to the Des Moines Women's Panhellenic Association⁴ and played a role in the establishment of the Des Moines alumnae chapter of Phi Mu. Concurrent with Jordan's involvement in local Phi Mu affairs was the creation of Phi Sigma; upon its installation as Zeta Delta chapter, Jordan became the group's first advisor. Although it is not clear what role Jordan played prior to the acceptance of Phi Sigma, the possibilities are seemingly endless; at most, Phi Sigma could have been Jordan's personal project; at the very least, Jordan was a source of guidance to the fledgling organization.

The national office of Phi Mu received Phi Sigma's petition in March 1922, and later in the spring an inspection of the Drake group was conducted by Nellie S. Hart (Delta, Sophie Newcomb), Phi Mu's National Panhellenic Congress (NPC) delegate and past national president, along with Berenice Ford (Beta, Hollins), national treasurer. Following an apparently satisfactory inspection, the question of chartering Phi Sigma was submitted to Phi Mu's chapters, which responded with a mail vote as the national convention did not convene that year. Late in the spring of 1922, Phi Sigma received notification that it had been accepted by Phi Mu and would be installed as Zeta Delta chapter in the fall.

The pledging ceremony of Phi Mu, marking the beginning of the installation sequence, was scheduled for Friday, September 8, 1922. However, the train which was carrying Berenice Ford and Phi Mu's National President Zenobia Wooten Keller (Theta, Ward-Bellmont) was delayed by

unseasonable weather, resulting in the postponement of the ceremony until the following morning. The Saturday pledging was followed by the initiation of 12 undergraduates and 12 alumnae into Phi Mu and the formal installation of Zeta Delta chapter.⁵ The events were held at the sorority's residence, located at 1174 26th Street⁶, which had been acquired the week prior. That evening a banquet in honor of the seventh NPC sorority to be installed at Drake was held at the Hotel Savory. Hazel Chapman '23, Zeta Delta's first president, provided violin selections, while Ella Bear '13, alumna initiate and faculty advisor to the chapter, played the piano. On Sunday morning, September 10, Zenobia W. Keller installed the chapter's officers and reviewed the Phi Mu Constitution for the new initiates. In the afternoon a tea was held at the home of Eleanore Palmer Dodd (Iota Sigma, Southern California), 692 44th Street, in honor of the chapter.

Five days after the completion of Zeta Delta's installation, the sorority participated in its first formal rush as a chapter of a national organization. Zeta Delta obtained nine new members, which represented an average-sized Drake sorority pledge class for the semester. Unfortunately, this respectable start was not followed by further accomplishment. Zeta Delta struggled throughout the 1920s to gain attention and a foothold in a

sorority hierarchy which had evolved even before the formation of Phi Sigma. Its efforts met with little success.

Prior to the financial collapse of 1929, social sororities at Drake, while varied in levels of prestige, were at least comparable in size. By 1930 a college education had become a luxury and Greek affiliation was, for many students, out of the question due to the costs involved. As the number of students participating in rush declined, the situation was further aggravated by the opening of the Women's (Morehouse) Dormitory; dorm life provided affordable housing while demanding none of the obligations of Greek membership. Additionally, a university-imposed one-year pledge period, coupled with a large number of women enrolled in two-year programs, created a high turnover rate in sororities. The Panhellenic Council, which had not yet adopted a quota/total system⁷, was of little or no assistance to its member groups, most of which teetered on the brink of insolvency.

Phi Mu became the first sorority to leave campus as a result of the Depression.⁸ Although unfortunate, Zeta Delta's passing was not likely a surprise to those who noted the chapter's inability to make inroads on the monopoly maintained by the established groups. Even those sororities with large undergraduate and alumnae memberships



Zeta Delta in the early 1930s, shortly before pressures brought to bear by the Depression forced the group into a period of inactivity. The chapter was revived following World War II, but failed to achieve long-term success.

and some form of capital were having substantial problems maintaining operations; Zeta Delta, which was certainly strong on ambition and effort, struggled to survive. In 1931, the chapter moved from its residence at 2805 Brattleboro Avenue, a spacious and conveniently located home which the sorority had occupied for four years, to a property located at 4027 Cottage Grove Avenue, an address quite removed from the campus. By the 1932 commencement only five Zeta Delta initiates—all of them underclassmen—remained on campus; others had graduated (some ahead of schedule) or withdrawn from college. The chapter did not return to Drake University in the fall semester of 1932.

The period immediately following World War II was a prosperous one for colleges and universities in the United States. Enrollments climbed at steady rates as young people returned to more normal lifestyles. The number of students enrolled at Drake University quadrupled between 1944 and 1947. National fraternities and sororities were also entering better times. Extension, severely limited or curtailed during the conflict, was made an immediate priority.

The first national sorority to enter the Drake field since Phi Mu's 1922 installation was Delta Zeta in 1946. The men's fraternities also saw the opportunity for prosperity at Drake University; four such chapters were installed during the two-year period of 1948-1950.⁹

Phi Mu's first expression of interest in reviving its Zeta Delta chapter came in March 1948, when the university "received a request from Phi Mu, national social sorority, to reactivate on campus."¹⁰ Polling the Panhellenic Council for its reaction to further expansion, the university was advised that "the general reaction seemed to favor the advisability of waiting until next fall or later for such action."¹¹ The council's desire for delay may have been attributable to the fact that while university enrollment was indeed climbing, the ratio of men to women was disproportionate; of the 3985 students attending Drake in 1947-48 only 931, or 23 percent, were women. The 1946 colonization of Delta Zeta had been accomplished during a peak enrollment year when 1709 women, representing 49 percent of the student population, were attending classes.

The university administration apparently respected the Panhellenic Council's desire to wait until fall, for no reactivation took place in the spring; the reactivation of Zeta Delta chapter was, however, undertaken in the fall of 1948. It is unclear if the project was initi-

ated on the national or local level, and which member or members of Phi Mu were responsible for the undertaking. However, what is clear is that once the parties involved commenced the project, events moved quickly. In late October 1948, a Halloween party was held at the home of Maxine Stone Parker '31, 3938 Lower Beaver Road, where "a group of girls from Drake University who were interested in reactivating Zeta Delta chapter"¹² were introduced to Phi Mu's Des Moines alumnae. On November 4, Parker hosted a tea "to introduce Mrs. Sabina F. Gallagher (Iota, Lawrence), area official, to the same girls"¹³ and to local alumnae. The same day the Drake Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs considered two related petitions; the first, from Phi Mu, requested the reactivation of Zeta Delta chapter; the second, signed by 38 Drake women, requested permission for them to become the members of a rechartered Zeta Delta. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously decided that both petitions be accepted.¹⁴

Less than a month later, Zenobia Wooten Keller, executive secretary of Phi Mu, was in Des Moines, making last minute plans and preparations with local alumnae for Zeta Delta's reinstallation. It was appropriate that Keller direct the affair, since in 1922, while serving as national president, she oversaw Zeta Delta's initial installation. The actual reinstallation sequence began in the early evening of Friday, December 3, when 38 undergraduates and three alumnae were pledged to Phi Mu¹⁵ at Hoyt Sherman Place (the Des Moines Women's Club), 15th Street and Woodland Avenue. On Saturday evening, the chapter installation and banquet were conducted, again at Hoyt Sherman Place. Those present in addition to Zenobia W. Keller included Sabrina Gallagher, area official, and Maxine Parker, who had accepted the position of alumnae advisor to Zeta Delta. On Sunday morning, elections and a model chapter meeting were held in the home of Des Moines Alumnae President Eletha Harrier '31, 402 29th Street. The reinstallation of Zeta Delta was completed with a tea held in the lounge of Old Main on Sunday afternoon, which was attended by Drake faculty, administration, and other guests of the sorority.

During the summer of 1949, Zeta Delta acquired a chapter house which was located at 3318 Forest Avenue. The chapter was presented with scholarship improvement awards from the Drake Panhellenic Council and the national sorority for its spring 1949 academic performance. In the spring of 1950, Zeta

Delta gained attention by placing second in the Sweetheart Sing competition. During this period, members of the chapter were involved in campus activities and were the recipients of individual honors.

But by 1951, it appeared that Phi Mu again had been unable to locate a niche in the sorority hierarchy at Drake. Its membership of 28 women in the fall of 1950 was two-thirds the size of the next smallest competi-

tor.¹⁶ Perhaps further crippled by a tapering off of local alumnae support, in the spring of 1952, Zeta Delta was placed on probation by the national organization.¹⁷ The chapter's situation did not improve, and prior to the opening of classes in the fall of 1952 its charter was withdrawn.

Phi Mu initiated 169 women during its 14 years (1922-32; 1948-52) at Drake University.

¹"A Prospectus to Phi Mu from Phi Sigma of Drake University," undated. The founders of Phi Sigma were: Hazel Chapman, Ruby M. Cole, Genevieve Ferguson, Vera G. Hughes, Geneva Jackson, Zoella Keyte, Arlie O. Knudson, Faith Kurtzweil, Helen Moore, Burdine Morgan, Minta Morgan, Elsie M. Robson, Roma Sater, Mary Stephenson, and Blance Wilkinson.

²In its prospectus to Phi Mu, Phi Sigma indicated that it had the highest grade point average among sororities for 1921-22. Because the grades used in the calculation were earned by the founders before the sorority existed, and because Phi Sigma was not a member of the Panhellenic Council, the group was not recognized on campus for the achievement.

³Omega Delta was founded in October 1907. Ironically, it was still functioning when three of its alumnae became affiliated with Phi Sigma (and Phi Mu). Perhaps the three sensed that Omega Delta's days were numbered and did not offer any potential for nationalization. The sorority did in fact cease operations soon thereafter, in the spring of 1923.

⁴Alumnae Panhellenics are established to interpret the fraternity system to the community and to assist college Panhellenics wherever possible. The Des Moines Women's Panhellenic Association was organized in 1900.

⁵Undergraduates initiated were: Hazel Chapman (president), Elizabeth Clark, Ruby Cole, Vera Hughes, Geneva Jackson, Zoella Keyte, Arlie Knudson, Faith Kurtzweil, Helen Moore, Burdine Morgan, Minta Morgan, and Elsie Robson.

Alumnae initiated were: Ella Bear, Gladys Caywood, Anna Clark, Verna Fenton, Genevieve Ferguson, Bernice Jordan, Leila Jordan, Ona Brockett Riggs, Lenore Sater, Roma Sater, Mary Stephenson, and Blanche Wilkinson.

⁶The 26th Street residence was owned by Drake University, which leased it to the sorority. The structure could accommodate 12 women.

⁷Quota/total, as recommended by the National Panhellenic Conference, is a system devised to help balance sorority membership on campus. Total is the allowable chapter size, determined by the college Panhellenic, and includes both

pledges and initiated members. Quota refers to the number of women each sorority may pledge during formal rush. The Drake Panhellenic Council did not utilize any form of membership balancing system until 1939.

⁸The Drake chapter of Alpha Chi Omega became a Depression casualty in October 1933. Two other sororities, Chi Omega and Alpha Xi Delta, came very close to assuming inactive status during the period.

⁹Sigma Phi Epsilon, 1948; Pi Kappa Phi and Theta Chi, 1949; Pi Kappa Alpha, 1950.

¹⁰Minutes, Drake University Panhellenic Council, March 3, 1948.

¹¹Id.

¹²"The Aglaia of Phi Mu," March 1949, p.36.

¹³Id.

¹⁴Minutes, Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, November 4, 1948. Assistant Professor of Retailing Wanda Palmer, who made the motion, was pledged and initiated during the reactivation of Zeta Delta. It is interesting to note that the Panhellenic Council was not consulted on this second occasion. It was simply "announced that Phi Mu will be reactivated on campus about December 4, with about 40 members." Minutes, Drake Panhellenic Council, November 10, 1948.

¹⁵Including Enid Allbaugh, Charlotte Arnold, Monty Lee Bada, Alice Bartheld, Marilyn Batemam, Ardith Baumgardner, Joan Beach, Patricia Boehler, Beverly Ann Clothier, Caroline Joyce Coad, Narciza Conrad, Jeanne Dawson, Gerry Lea Farrell, Jo Ann Fonda, Jeanne Fritz, Ruth Gauger, Joyce Gibbs, Arleen Habertier, Mary Jane Hallagan, Jane Hayes, Norma Jeanne Hyde, Audrey E. Jenkins, Mary King, Patricia McCurdy, Patricia Owens, Gloma Peterson, Maxine Petro, Marcella Remus, Orpha N. Roberts, Shirley Smith, Mary Loo Stevenson, Dorothy Jane Stroud, Jayne Ann Traxl, Audree Mae Van Bosch, Gwen Can Fossen, Hilah Jane Wilcox, Nancy Jo Wood, Genevieve Johnson. Alumnae initiates were Mary Frances Boyd, professor of French; Wanda Palmer and Frances Merrill.

¹⁶Disregarding Delta Rho colony of Alpha Epsilon Phi, which was in its first semester of existence

and generally did not compete against the other sororities for members.

¹⁷Minutes, Drake Panhellenic Council, February 27, 1952.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Annadell Craig Lamb, Phi Mu national historian; Debra S. Bloom, Phi Mu national editor; Polly Merritt, Phi Mu alumnae secretary; Eletha F. Harrier '31, and Genevieve Furguson Morton '22.

Pi Beta Phi

Founded April 28, 1867, at Monmouth College. Total charter grants: 132, of which 116 remain active. Total initiates: 130,000. Colors: wine red and silver blue; flower: the wine carnation.

The Drake Colony organized March 30, 1983; installed as the 132nd or Iowa Eta chapter of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity October 8, 1983.

PI BETA PHI had already established four chapters in the state of Iowa by the time Drake University was organized in 1881. In fact, the second chapter of the sorority was installed at Iowa Wesleyan (Iowa Alpha) in 1868. Subsequently Pi Beta Phi undertook further extension in Iowa, chartering groups at Simpson College (Iowa Beta), 1874; Iowa State (Iowa Gamma), 1877; and South Iowa Normal¹ (Iowa Epsilon), 1881. Before Drake had celebrated its first decade of existence, Pi Beta Phi had established two additional Iowa chapters, which were located at the University of Iowa (Iowa Zeta), 1882; and Callanan College (Iowa Lambda), 1886.

The Callanan College chapter is of particular note, as Drake University annexed the financially distressed institution in 1888. Founded in 1879 as the Des Moines Collegiate Institute, the college was purchased by industrialist James Callanan one year later. Callanan College was located at 12th Street and Pleasant Avenue where Methodist Hospital presently stands. In 1886, Callanan changed its co-educational policy and restricted enrollment to women; that same year a chapter of Pi Beta Phi was founded on the campus.² Like all chapters of Pi Beta Phi during the period, the group—which was chartered as Iowa Lambda—was publicly known as the I. C. Sororsis.³ Cary Dorr, a Callanan student, was assisted in the formation of the sorority by alumnae Ella J. Cummins (Iowa Beta), Olive McHenry, and Kate Johnson (both Iowa Alpha).⁴ Initiated on October 26, 1886, the charter members of Iowa Lambda included Dorr, Elizabeth Case, Anna Ross, Lyda Houston, and Helen Lensen. Lacking a chapter house, Iowa Lambda held meetings in the basement gymnasium of Callanan College. The group had

grown to 12 women by the conclusion of the 1887-88 school year.⁵

Callanan College ceased to function in the summer of 1888, primarily due to a loss of financial support from the dying James Callanan. Drake University, anxious to broaden its academic offerings through the establishment of a college of education, assumed the institution's operation and renamed it the Drake Normal School. Although the property of Callanan College was annexed by Drake, its chapter of Pi Beta Phi apparently was not, and Iowa Lambda slipped into oblivion, never to be revived.⁶ It is uncertain if the possibility of transferring the charter was even considered, as from its inception Drake University was formally opposed to the "undemocratic" nature of Greek-letter social societies.⁷ Drake abandoned the Callanan campus in 1893, moving instruction to the recently completed Venerable Science (Sage) Hall.

In the spring of 1920, the Drake local sorority Alpha Gamma Tau expressed interest in affiliating with Pi Beta Phi. There is no actual record of Alpha Gamma Tau petitioning the national, and it is doubtful that it actually did so; not only was the local sorority's membership split on with whom to affiliate,⁸ but Pi Beta Phi, with four operating chapters in the state, was likely weary of further expansion in Iowa.

Correspondence between Pi Beta Phi and Drake was renewed in the fall of 1966, due to the university's interest in adding a sorority to the eight women's groups then operating on campus.⁹ Negotiation, however, was minimal as Pi Beta Phi expressed a reluctance to colonize on a campus where the university had adopted regulations regarding membership selection. Effective September 1, 1965,

Drake required all national organizations operating on campus to sign an affidavit which indicated, in part, that "student organizations shall enjoy full freedom to select their members as long as this selection is based on merit, congeniality, common interests, and special talents."¹⁰ Pi Beta Phi objected to the proviso on the basis that it required the national organization to grant local autonomy which might eventually lead to the elimination of alumnae sponsorship.¹¹

In April 1982 sorority expansion was again undertaken by Drake University. Twenty sororities—comprising the complete membership of the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) not already represented by chapters on campus—were requested to express their interest in colonization. Among those groups that responded was Pi Beta Phi. The Drake Expansion Committee¹² was duly impressed with Pi Beta Phi's proposed colonization plan and selected the sorority, along with Alpha Omicron Pi and Delta Delta Delta, for final consideration.¹³ The Pi Beta Phi extension team—comprised of National President Jean Wirths Scott (Pennsylvania Beta, Bucknell), Director of Extension Maralou Juday Crane (Ohio Zeta, Miami), NPC Delegate Annette Mitchell Mills (Alabama Alpha, Birmingham-Southern), and Field Secretary Jerelyn Wright (California Delta, UCLA)—was invited to the Drake University campus. On October 27, 1982, the representatives of Pi Beta Phi discussed their organization with members of Drake's Office of Student Life and made a presentation to the Expansion Committee. Two weeks later Alpha Omicron Pi visited the Drake campus and followed a similar itinerary. The following day, the Expansion Committee met and reached a unanimous decision: Pi Beta Phi, because of the high number of its alumnae residing in the Des Moines area and its impressive program of chapter services, was offered the opportunity to colonize on the Drake campus. On November 16, the Expansion Committee presented its recommendation to the Panhellenic Council for endorsement; the council, equally impressed, voted unanimously in favor of the colonization by Pi Beta Phi. The sorority was notified of its acceptance in a unique manner; at the suggestion of Sheree L. Clark, coordinator of Greek life, a mixed bouquet was sent to National President Jean Scott, along with a card stating that

Each of these flowers represent a chapter at Drake University. With your consent, we would like to add a wine carnation to our bouquet.

Scott responded with a wine carnation—as one might infer, the official flower of Pi Beta Phi—and a note stating simply that "We accept." An official invitation to colonize was forwarded to the sorority on November 22, 1982 by Vice President of Student Life Donald Adams.

The Expansion Committee's original intention had been for colonization to take place in the fall of 1983; the extension team however, had inquired into the possibility of a spring colonization during their visit to campus. Immediately following the decision to invite Pi Beta Phi to Drake, the Expansion Committee decided that the invitation would allow the sorority to determine when to organize on campus. Pi Beta Phi opted for a spring 1983 effort feeling it to be more timely, particularly in view of the fact that only one of Drake's social sororities had yet to achieve quota for the year.¹⁴

From the time Pi Beta Phi accepted Drake's invitation until representatives arrived on campus for recruitment purposes, planning for the colony was continuous. A listing of unaffiliated women students was requested from the university, which was followed by a February 1983 mailing detailing Pi Beta Phi's membership selection timetable. The sorority made arrangements for Field Secretary Jeralyn Wright to reside on campus from the time of its rush until the conclusion of the semester. After space could not be located in the residence halls, a room was secured at the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority house, located four blocks from campus.

During the weekend of March 25, 1983, representatives of Pi Beta Phi assembled in Des Moines to make finishing touches of their rush plans. Included in the entourage were NPC Delegate Mills, National Vice President Lucy Baker Warner (Indiana Zeta, Ball State), Field Secretary Jennifer Hinchman (California Zeta, Santa Barbara) and Ginger Rector Uehling (Wisconsin Beta, Beloit), area official. Field Secretary Wright, who had planned to reside at Kappa Alpha Theta, fell ill and was replaced by another member of the field staff, Blythe Buddendorf (Texas Beta, Southern Methodist).

In spite of a surprise blizzard, Pi Beta Phi observed its rush schedule, which began with a Sunday, March 26 colonization reception. Held in the upper gallery of the Olmsted Center, approximately 90 interested women were shown a presentation which included a slideshow and an outline of plans for the colony's progress toward chartering. Musical entertainment was provided by a contingent from the Pi Beta Phi chapter at Iowa State.

The following day—in its entirety—was spent in “informal small group meetings.” Composed of hour-long sessions, the meetings paired members of the extension team with Drake coeds to answer questions and engage in casual conversation. Although the atmosphere during the meetings in Olmsted Center was informal, Pi Beta Phi was paying careful attention to what was being said and done; as from this pool they would be selecting the founding members of the Drake chapter. At the conclusion of the meetings, the extension team composed a list of women who would be asked to attend an invitational rush party. Held the following afternoon at the P.E.O.¹⁵ Centennial Center, 3700 Grand Avenue, the party essentially served as a preference ceremony. Assisting the extension team were upwards of 30 Des Moines Pi Beta Phi alumnae, who transported rushees from campus and were active participants in the affair. Also in attendance were collegiates from the Simpson and Iowa State chapters. Returning to their rooms in the Marriott Hotel following the party, the extension team began the long and arduous task of membership selection. A list was finally arrived at; written bids were given to Coordinator of Greek Life Clark for distribution on the morning of Wednesday, March 30.

Returning to the P.E.O. Centennial Center on the afternoon of the 30th, 46 women were pledged to Pi Beta Phi, with NPC Delegate Mills officiating over the ceremony. Pleased with the results of their colonization effort, a member of the extension team noted that

The interest the women have expressed to us is the pioneering experience, the desire to be part of something new. They see an opportunity for creativity and initiative within the national guidelines. They see an opportunity to develop new friendships that are a little more lasting than those from class or the residence halls.¹⁶

Shortly after the colony members were pledged, Blythe Buddendorf took up residence at Kappa Alpha Theta and began her six-week stint as pledge trainer/advisor to the new group. The Drake Panhellenic Council put into operation a “Greek Big Sis” program where each Pi Beta Phi pledge was paired with an initiate of a Drake sorority; the two then engaged in a number of Greek and social activities. Officers were elected within the colony, and a full calendar of exchanges and campus involvement was undertaken.

In late April National President Scott

announced that a target date of October 7-9, 1983, had been determined for the installation of the Drake colony as Iowa Eta of Pi Beta Phi. On May 1, the colony's president, Cynthia Cook '84, was accompanied by Blythe Buddendorf for Cook's initiation into the sorority by the Iowa State chapter. The initiation of the colony's leader made it possible for the group to be represented at Pi Beta Phi's 54th national convention, held in Louisville, Kentucky.

On April 1, 1983 local Pi Beta Phi alumnae formed a house corporation and began to seek a suitable residence for the collegiate group. Concentrating their search on the 1200 block of 34th Street—an area which had evolved into Drake's “Greek Street”—the alumnae located two possible properties. One, 1218 34th Street, had become available due to the May 1983 demise of Gamma Phi Beta; the other, 1219 34th Street, had been unoccupied since Alpha Epsilon Pi left the Drake campus in 1982. Negotiations continued throughout the summer and it was not until August 26, 1983—just one day before the fall rushing season began—that the purchase of the home at 1219 34th Street was finalized. The residence was acquired at a cost of \$170,000.

Because the 1982-83 school year had ended before Pi Beta Phi alumnae were certain that the chapter would have housing by the fall, over half of the colony's membership had signed residence hall contracts with the university. Drake had agreed to release the women from their dormitory contracts in the event that chapter housing was secured. The late date of the actual house closing, coupled with the fact that the 34th Street property was not in optimal condition,¹⁷ would result in only nine members actually establishing residence at the house during the 1983 fall semester.

Participating in formal fall rush, the colony was aided in its effort by Annette Mills, Maralou Crane, Field Secretary Carol Biglow (Oregon Alpha, Oregon), and several local alumnae including Ann Laughlin (Nebraska Beta, Nebraska), chapter advisor. Also assisting in the colony's first recruitment effort was Resident Graduate Counselor Cheryl Buonarati (California Epsilon, San Diego), who would take up residence at the chapter house for the remainder of the 1983-84 school year. Recruiting from its austere home presented a challenge for Drake's newest Greek-letter organization. The house had been vacant for more than a year, necessitating major cleanup and removal of debris; the prior winter faulty plumbing had flooded the

building's second floor, causing considerable water damage. A lack of time precluded all but minor renovations; colony members responded by sponsoring a "hard hat party" early during rush rounds. The tongue-in-cheek attitude of the group contributed to a successful rush. Twenty-one women were pledged to the Pi Beta Phi colony, just three short of the campus average.

The next major undertaking of the sorority was participation in Greek Week during the latter part of September. The group made its first appearance in Sweetheart Sing and actively supported other traditional events as well. At the awards presentation which concluded Greek Week, the Pi Beta Phi colony received first place honors in pledge scholarship for its spring 1983 academic performance.¹⁸ Two weeks after the conclusion of Greek Week, the Drake chapter was installed as Iowa Eta chapter of Pi Beta Phi.



The charter members of Iowa Eta, who were initiated into Pi Beta Phi on October 8, 1983.

Installation activities for Iowa Eta began at the Plymouth Congregational Church on Friday, October 7, 1983, when two alumnae initiates were pledged and a pre-initiation ceremony was performed. On Saturday, October 8, 36 women were initiated as charter members¹⁹ of Iowa Eta at the chapter house. Actual installation of the chapter took place that evening during a formal banquet held in the Terrace Room of the Hotel Savery. A candlelighting ceremony in honor of the sorority's founders was held, and the program

was concluded with the Pi Beta Phi loving cup ceremony. Present for the installation festivities were Jean Scott, Annette Mills, Lucy Warner, National Secretary Carol Helman Lichtenberg (Ohio Alpha, Ohio), and National Vice Presidents Adrienne Hiscox Mitchell (Kansas Alpha, Kansas) and Jane Houchen Tuten (Tennessee Beta, Vanderbilt). In addition three area officials, two national directors, and past National President Dorothy Weaver Morgan (Nebraska Beta, Nebraska), attended as visitors. Presidents and representatives of collegiate chapters at Iowa Wesleyan, Simpson, Iowa State, Iowa, and Minnesota (Minnesota Alpha) were represented at the installation, as were a number of Iowa alumnae organizations. On Sunday, October 9, a model chapter meeting was conducted at the Olmsted Center. The weekend was concluded with a reception for parents and campus and community representatives. Guests at the reception included representatives of the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils, chapter presidents, and university officials Wilbur Miller, president; Paul Magelli, vice president of academic administration; Donald Adams, vice president of student life; Sheree Clark, coordinator of Greek life, and Marjorie Cunningham, associate dean emerita. Also present was Marie Fitz, past national president of Kappa Alpha Theta. Flowers and greetings were sent to the new group from campus fraternities and sororities.

As a result of its installation as a chapter of a national organization, Iowa Eta was accorded voting privileges on the Drake Panhellenic Council. The sorority was also incorporated into the officer rotation schedule for the governing body.²⁰

Although the date of this publication prevents the chronicling of the first full year of Iowa Eta's history, what has been written above will undoubtedly not be the last chapter on Pi Beta Phi at Drake. A bright future is predicted for the group, who should be acknowledged for its enthusiasm and demonstration that fraternity is not an ideal whose time has passed on this campus.

¹South Iowa Normal was located in Bloomfield, Iowa. It operated from 1872-1919.

²Little is known about Iowa Lambda aside from a brief history written by charter member Anna Ross Clarke in 1937.

³The letters ΠΒΦ were utilized as a secret motto by the national sorority until 1888.

⁴Presumably, the three women were members of the Omega alumnae chapter which functioned in Des Moines from 1882-93.

⁵Iowa Lambda initiated a total of 15 women during its brief existence at Callanan College.

⁶Pi Beta Phi declined an offer to designate its Drake chapter Iowa Lambda. Although a somewhat attenuated notion, the move would argue-

bly have made Pi Beta Phi the oldest sorority at Drake.

⁷According to some sources, the principle opponent was General Francis M. Drake. Fraternities and sororities did not become visible on campus until after his death.

⁸This indecision may have led to Alpha Gamma Tau's demise in 1923.

⁹Eventually, Gamma Phi Beta was selected for colonization purposes.

¹⁰Minutes, Drake University Senate, March 21, 1962.

¹¹While over the years Drake University had maintained an interest in the establishment of a chapter of Pi Beta Phi on campus, it also stood firm in its position on membership selection. In a June 10, 1976 letter to Jane Wade Anderson, coordinator of fraternities and sororities at the University of Nebraska, Marjorie Cunningham, assistant to the vice president of student life, wrote "... we are thinking about the future possibility of expansion ... at one time we had correspondence with Pi Phi but they refused to sign our non-discrimination statement and dropped contact with us. I don't know whether they still feel that strongly about signing a statement, if so we couldn't be interested."

¹²The Expansion Committee, chaired by Coordinator of Greek Life Sheree Clark, was comprised of a representative of each campus sorority, a university alumna, and the presidents of the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils.

¹³Subsequently, Delta Delta Delta withdrew its request for consideration.

¹⁴Quota, determined each fall by the Panhellenic Council, is the maximum number of women a sorority may invite to membership during the school year. During 1982-83 quota was set at 24 women.

¹⁵P.E.O. is an international philanthropic educational organization for women.

¹⁶"The Drake Times-Delphic," April 1, 1983.

¹⁷A March 1982 appraisal report prepared by Arthur J. Frahm and Associates indicated that "the entire original portion of the building [constructed in 1912] is in poor condition and is in need of many repairs to the walls, ceilings, floor coverings, windows and plumbing." An addition to the house, constructed in 1968, was described as being in "fair to poor condition" by the real estate appraisers.

¹⁸As a colony, Pi Beta Phi was ineligible for the scholarship award presented for total chapter achievement.

¹⁹Hillary Baskin, Teresa Broer, Colette Coderre, Audrey Cook, Cynthia Cook (president), Marybeth Cooper, Lisa Marie Crotty, Mary Cunningham, Robin Dempsey, Laura Emerick, Francine Ferraro, Lee Ann Fleet, Linnea Gits, Mary Gurney, Cathy Hartman, Deborah Henneberry, Elizabeth Jacobi, Lois Karpe, Laurie Kern, Marina Lavis, Julie-Ann McNeal, Marci Phippen, Julie Schneider, Lori Schoenthaler, Shelia Siefken, Amy Snyder, Kym Stone, Jennifer Summers, Lisa Vipond, Linda Weis, Lori Wenzl, Rhonda Wright, Jill Van Wyke, and Elizabeth Zigmund. Two women from Des Moines, both mothers of Pi Beta Phis, were initiated as alumnae: Esther Sexauer and Dee Woods.

²⁰In 1981, the Panhellenic Council readopted a system of limited officer rotation in which campus chapters alternate responsibility for holding one of three executive offices, including president. The other three Panhellenic officers are chosen by election.

Research assistance for this section was provided by Annette Mitchell Mills.

Zeta Phi

Founded October 1909 at Drake University. The organization did not operate beyond 1922.

ZETA PHI, with all due respect, was one of the least distinguished Greek-letter social group to have operated at Drake University. For slightly over a decade Zeta Phi's membership was consistently among the smallest of the campus' local sororities; its accomplishments appear to have been equally minimal.

Founded in October 1909 by Mabelle Watson '12, Bethel Huffman '09, her sister Miriam Huffman '13, and at least two other Drake coeds whose names have gone unrecorded, Zeta Phi selected the public name of the Zatis Club in order to comply with the university prohibition against "secret societies." In 1911 the sorority first obtained housing, which was located at 2943 Brattleboro Avenue; several years later, Zeta Phi relocated to 2311 Carpenter Avenue. At the latter address Melvina E. Guessford, mother of Zeta Phi initiate Ora Fern Guessford '16, served as house mother. Her daughter received momentary notoriety in December 1915 when, as a Drake University senior, she was selected to participate in the Ford Peace

Expedition, a floating entourage which attempted to cease hostilities in Europe during the early years of World War I.¹

From 1916-19, Zeta Phi was highly mobile, having occupied housing at 1124 26th Street, 2812 Brattleboro Avenue, and 1061 21st Street. After 1919, the sorority did not maintain a residence.

While a majority of Drake's ten local sororities immediately took advantage of the opportunity to petition national organizations in February 1920, Zeta Phi was not among their number. By June 1921, six national sororities had installed chapters on the Drake campus, and the four remaining local societies² found it increasingly difficult to compete. Two local sororities did not continue operating after the conclusion of the 1921-22 school year, including Zeta Phi, whose passing, much like its brief existence, went relatively unnoticed.

The colors of Zeta Phi were silver and old rose. Its flower, the pink rose, was changed to the Killarney Rose in 1919. *The Zeta Phi* was the sorority's official publication.

¹The Ford Peace Expedition, financed by industrialist Henry Ford, lacked the sanction of the U.S. government and broke up only a few weeks after it set sail from New York aboard the *Oscar II*.

²Alpha Gamma Tau, Kappa Kappa Upsilon, Omega Delta and Zeta Phi. All ultimately became dormant, with Alpha Gamma Tau and Omega Delta operating through the 1922-23 school year.

Zeta Tau Delta

Founded May 29, 1925, at Drake University. The organization did not operate beyond 1928.

ZETA TAU DELTA was likely organized in order to provide a fraternity experience for Drake women of the Jewish faith. The organization's campus contributions and activities appear to have been minimal; all that is known of the local sorority's operations is the following entry from the 1927 edition of the university annual, *The Quax*:

Zeta Tau Delta was founded at Drake University May 29, 1925. Shortly after the completion of organization the first girl to be pledged to and initiated into Zeta Tau Delta passed away. As an expression of the esteem of the chapter toward this departed member, and to honor her memory, the Anna

Gordon Scholarship was founded. This scholarship is awarded annually to the Jewish girl, who has completed the first year's study with the highest scholarship standing.

Zeta Tau Delta did not operate beyond 1928. Women of the Jewish faith, who continued to be excluded from sorority membership, would be forced to wait for two decades and the establishment of the Neonates Club/Alpha Epsilon Phi before again taking part in the fraternity experience.

The colors of Zeta Tau Delta were green and gold; its flower was the daisy. The sorority initiated approximately 15 women while it functioned at Drake University.

The Drake Social Panhellenic Council



The Drake Women's Social Panhellenic Council has exercised an undeniable influence upon its member sororities. A governing body in which campus chapters of National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) sororities are required to maintain membership,¹ the council's primary purpose is the enactment of "rules governing rushing, pledging, and pre-initiation."² Additionally, the Panhellenic Council has assumed jurisdiction over expansion, chapter and pledge class size, and occasionally, the social privileges of its member groups.

The concept of a Panhellenic organization at Drake was first conceived of in 1909, but it was not until 1911 that such a group became fully operational. That year the campus sororities—disguised as "social clubs" due to a prohibition against Greek-letter societies—formed the Women's Inter-Club Conclave, forerunner of the modern Panhellenic Coun-

cil. Dean of Women Elizabeth Walker Jordan was instrumental in the organization's creation and served as its first advisor.

At the time of the Inter-Club Conclave's establishment, there were nine local sororities at Drake with a combined membership of 129 women, which represented approximately 14 percent of Drake's female population. The conclave was composed of two representatives from each of the nine member organizations, from which a "representative council" or executive board was elected. Business meetings, generally held in the campus library, were conducted monthly. Each spring the conclave sponsored a reception which afforded "an opportunity for all of the club members to come in closer touch with each other."³ The organization placed a significant emphasis upon the scholastic achievement of its members and specified in its bylaws that

No girl carrying less than 12 hours of work shall be eligible to become a member of any club and a grade of A or B in at least two-thirds of work carried must be shown before initiation . . ."⁴

A later version of the bylaws further stipulated that

Any member of any club who fails to secure a grade of A or B in two-thirds hours of her work shall forfeit active membership in her club for the following term.⁵

While social and scholastic pursuits were important aims of the Inter-Club Conclave, central to its very existence was the regulation of membership recruitment. Although for a short period beginning in 1903 the existence of a small number of groups made a Panhellenic organization unnecessary, the establishment of seven additional local sororities between 1907-09 rendered a system of mere casual agreement between groups impractical. Rules similar to those presently governing sorority rush were devised in an attempt to achieve parity during recruitment. The guidelines included a specified rushing

period, which varied in length from two to five weeks; an interval of "silence," during which contact with rushees was forbidden; a prohibition of oral invitations to membership; and a designated pledging day. An invitation committee, comprised of a representative of each sorority, was appointed to oversee the delivery of invitations and bids during the formal rushing period. This system was viewed by outsiders as humorous and overly cumbersome, and prompted at least one observer to remark that

Talk about the unchanging laws of the Medes and Persians. They are not in it with rules issued by the Inter-Club Conclave to govern the rushing season for the girls' clubs. A careful perusal of all the pleasures on the forbidden list leaves one wondering how the club girls are going to even become acquainted with their rushees.⁶

By 1913 the number of women holding membership in local sororities at Drake had grown to 170. Perhaps believing that public use of their Greek-letter identities would be overlooked by university authorities, the local sororities began the practice of openly using their true names. Similarly, the Inter-Club Conclave had become known as the Panhellenic Council.

On June 2, 1915, Alpha Rho Omega, a local sorority which had been in existence less than a year, became the tenth member of the Panhellenic Council. Following the admittance of Alpha Rho Omega, the council's constitution was amended to specify that "the number of clubs holding membership in the council should be limited to ten."⁷

By 1917 world events dictated austerity in rushing and social affairs, and as a result the Panhellenic Council became active in such projects as organizing volunteers to assist the Red Cross and raising money for the various war fund projects. In spite of the turmoil created by the Great War, 226 of the 869 women enrolled in the university were affiliated with sororities. Perhaps as a result of the larger number of women participating in the rush process, the Panhellenic Council instituted a preferential system of bidding in which the rushees written preference list of sororities was matched against the sororities similar preference of rushees.⁸ In 1919, the Panhellenic Council adopted, with minor modifications, the rushing regulations utilized by sororities at Northwestern University.

While over the course of a decade the university's position regarding fraternities and

sororities had softened, an unwritten but clearly existent policy forbidding affiliation with national organizations continued. The appointment of Arthur Holmes, an initiate of the national fraternity Theta Xi, as president of the university in the fall of 1918 led some students to speculate that "Drake is about to take favorable action on the question of entrance of national fraternities."⁹ Action was indeed taken; on February 18, 1920, the Drake University Board of Trustees "cast a unanimous vote in favor of permitting the local organizations now in the university to petition national fraternities."¹⁰

The weekend of April 30, 1921, marked the establishment of Drake's first national sororities; additionally, at this time the campus Panhellenic was reorganized to conform to the practices of the National Panhellenic Congress (now Conference). The multitude of national officers and alumnae which were present for the installation of the four chapters that weekend took advantage of the opportunity to standardize the rules and operations of the Drake Panhellenic Council. L. Pearle Green, national secretary-editor of Kappa Alpha Theta and past chairman of the NPC, presided over a conference attended by national representatives and undergraduate delegates from the newly installed chapters on Sunday, May 1, 1921.¹¹ After receiving instruction in NPC procedure, "order of official place was drawn by the president of each collegiate chapter,"¹² so as to establish a schedule for officer rotation. Kappa Kappa Gamma, having drawn the low number, was made responsible for providing the first president for the revamped council. Succeeding presidents were to come from Chi Omega, Delta Gamma, and Kappa Alpha Theta, respectively.

Instruction of the Drake council was one of the many events which were undertaken in a spirit of Panhellenic cooperation during the weekend. Long before the actual installations, Delta Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Kappa Kappa Gamma had "conferred and decided to enter the university on the same day, thereby giving each group an equal start on the campus."¹³ Of further note was a joint Panhellenic reception held on the afternoon of April 30; attended by over 500 individuals, including the installing officers of the four chapters, the social affair recognized the long-term efforts to bring national sororities to Drake University. National organizations continued to mutually promote the success of Drake's sororities; in 1922 the Des Moines Women's Panhellenic Association¹⁴ first awarded a scholarship trophy to the

campus group with the highest academic average.

Initial membership in the "new" Panhellenic Council included the four national chapters and six local sororities. By the fall of 1921, two locals, Alpha Rho Omega and Iota Delta Omicron, had become chapters of Alpha Chi Omega and Alpha Xi Delta, respectively. In the meantime two other local groups had ceased operations, leaving eight social sororities on the campus. Interestingly, during the 1921-22 school year the Panhellenic Council's membership included four professional sororities: Alpha Sigma Alpha (education),¹⁵ Zeta Phi Eta (speech and drama), Mu Phi Epsilon and Sigma Alpha Iota (music). The following year the three fine arts sororities were excluded from the Panhellenic Council; Alpha Sigma Alpha, the only sorority in the College of Education, remained a member of the social council with the understanding that the group would "withdraw when another sorority of the college of education was founded."¹⁶ Alpha Sigma Alpha resigned its membership when such a sorority was established in 1925.¹⁷ In the fall of 1922 Phi Sigma, a local sorority organized during the prior semester, became a chapter of Phi Mu and assumed a seat on the governing council.

The Panhellenic Council, in addition to establishing regulations for membership recruitment, also adopted guidelines governing the social activities of its member organizations. In 1921, for example, the council unanimously agreed that "the second and fourth Friday nights of every month be devoted to university functions only," and that "no organization be allowed to have more than three dances during the year."¹⁸

During the late 1920s social sororities at Drake, although varied in levels of campus prestige, were comparable in size. Each chapter suffered the aftereffects of the stock market crash to varying degrees, and within a matter of months a membership imbalance became noticable. The Panhellenic Council, which had not yet adopted a chapter limitation system, was of little or no assistance to its members, a majority of which teetered on the brink of insolvency. Phi Mu, the youngest national chapter at Drake and never successful enough to be competitive, became the first organization to leave campus in 1932. The following year Alpha Chi Omega likewise closed its Drake chapter. By 1937 two of the five remaining sororities—Alpha Xi Delta and Chi Omega—were similarly threatened due to insufficient memberships. Although the Panhellenic Council had begun

to discuss the adoption of a limitation system, it was "met with strong opposition,"¹⁹ and no action was taken on the matter. In January 1939 Chi Omega's situation had become so desperate that the chapter ceased all activities and relinquished the lease on its house. On March 8, 1939 the Panhellenic Council finally took action: sorority membership would be limited to 40 women per chapter.²⁰ By May 1939 the university had relaxed its one-year pledging requirement, and freshmen with grade averages of at least a C-plus, with no grade below a D, became eligible for initiation during the second semester. These steps, combined with a generally improving economy and an increasing enrollment, helped to restore stability to the five-chapter sorority system at Drake.

An unprecedented number of changes in the policies of the Panhellenic Council were instituted in the decade of the 1940s. In the spring of 1940 the council began awarding the Panhellenic scholarship trophy, a recognition which had previously been presented by the Des Moines Women's Panhellenic Association. Although the collegiate group initially took on responsibility for the award because the Des Moines Panhellenic had become inactive, the Drake council continued to sponsor the award after the city group was revived. Beginning in 1945 the Panhellenic Council assumed sponsorship of the annual fraternity-sorority songfest Sweetheart Sing which had previously been held under the auspices of the Women's League. In 1948 the council "adopted" a war orphan by sending \$20 each month to the Foster Parents Plan for War Children; this support was continued until 1952.

Sorority rush likewise underwent a transformation during the 1940s. The Panhellenic Council, in an effort to better inform rushees about the rushing process, began the publication of a rush brochure entitled *Going Sorority?* During the same period, the council implemented a requirement that each woman participating in formal rush complete a rush application form and submit a \$1 fee to help defray the administrative costs incurred by the Panhellenic Council in the promotion of rush.

Additional modifications of the council's procedures came about as a result of outside influences. Following the outbreak of World War II, a small number of sorority women left school to enlist in the armed services, prompting an amendment to the Panhellenic constitution which allowed for "a pledge who leaves school at the end of the first semester of her pledge year to enter the service [to] be

initiated provided she meets all requirements."²¹ The Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, a subcommittee of the university senate established in the fall of 1945, had a profound effect upon the Panhellenic Council. Among the committee's functions was the review of "petitions for colonization directed to the university from national fraternities or sororities."²² The committee approved such a colonization request—the first it had received—from Delta Zeta in January 1946; the sorority was installed later that spring. Although the committee had granted the Panhellenic Council an opportunity to "submit names of groups interested in establishing chapters on campus"²³ before formally granting Delta Zeta's request to colonize, even this cursory amenity was dispensed with two years later when the committee approved the reinstallation of Phi Mu. In November 1948 the Panhellenic advisor simply announced to the council that "Phi Mu will be reactivated on campus about December 4."²⁴ Phi Mu's chartering brought membership in the Panhellenic Council to seven groups.

The appointment of Robert B. Kamm as dean of students in August 1948 would result in a brief although significant change in the rushing practices of the fraternities and sororities at Drake. Kamm believed that campus rushing activities, held one week before the commencement of classes and during new student orientation, created competition between Greek organizations and the university for the new students' time. Additionally, Kamm perceived a pre-fall rush as negative, because "new students, most of whom were complete unfamiliar with the university, were being forced to make hurried and often unwise decisions with regard to what group they should join."²⁵ On February 11, 1949, Kamm summarily announced that "as of the opening of school next fall, there will be a one-semester delay in rushing freshman students. You may, however, hold your regular rush period next fall for upperclassmen . . ."²⁶ The announcement was not well received by the Panhellenic Council, which felt compelled to establish additional rules in order to insure equity in recruitment.²⁷ An eight-page document entitled "Panhellenic Rushing Rules: 1949-50," included regulations prohibiting such activities as "pre-arranged coke or lunch dates or other pre-arranged functions" between sorority women and first semester freshmen. The scheduling ultimately proved unsatisfactory and the following year all students—regardless of class standing—were allowed to partic-

ipate in formal rush. Formal recruitment in the fall of 1950 and later was carefully scheduled to avoid competition with class registration and orientation activities.

In 1951 a rushing incident, in which five campus sororities filed charges against the Drake chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma, became complicated enough to warrant intervention by the NPC Committee on College Panhellenics. One outcome of the affair was the suggestion by the NPC committee that the constitution and bylaws of the Drake Panhellenic Council be reviewed and revised. Subsequent amendments to the constitution included the rewording of sections pertaining to voting, scholarship, bidding, and initiation, as well as a revision of penalties for violations of rush rules. During the 1950s the Panhellenic Council became involved in a considerable amount of social programming. The council began the sponsorship of receptions in observance of Homecoming, Parents Weekend, and the Drake Relays, and hosted an annual faculty tea. In 1952 the Panhellenic and Interfraternity councils jointly sponsored the first Greek Weekend, predecessor of Greek Week. The two groups continued sponsorship of the annual event—along with Sweetheart Sing, which had become a part of the weekend festivities—until 1961 when an independent Greek Week Committee was established.

Although as early as 1947 the Panhellenic Council had "discussed the possibility of allowing a Jewish sorority"²⁸ to establish on campus, it was not until 1950 that such an organization, Alpha Epsilon Phi, was invited to send representatives to the university. The increasing number of Jewish women enrolled at Drake, coupled with the fact that "almost all the sororities do not pledge girls of the Jewish origin,"²⁹ had created a need for a group to fill this vacuum, and thus Alpha Epsilon Phi was invited to colonize on campus.³⁰ The sorority's admittance to the council in the spring of 1952 increased the membership of the governing group to eight organizations; however, at the conclusion of the semester, Phi Mu became inactive.

In 1955 the Panhellenic Council began the utilization of rush counselors during the formal recruitment period. The program was such a success that it has been continued to this day. The first rush counselors were appointed by their chapters; this process was continued until 1976, when the executive board of the Panhellenic Council assumed responsibility for selection.

In 1957 Alpha Phi notified the university of its interest in the establishment of a chap-

ter on the campus. Assistant Dean of Students Marjorie Cunningham indicated that the Panhellenic Council would need to grant its permission in order for the colonization to take place; the council approved the sorority's request in May 1957. Alpha Phi's 1958 installation again brought the voting membership in the Panhellenic Council to eight sororities.

Following the fall 1959 formal rushing period, the Panhellenic Council, alarmed that "each year we have a larger number of girls interested in pledging a sorority," began to examine "how we might limit the number of rushees."³¹ While none of the solutions proposed—including a rush registration deadline and a minimum grade average in order to participate—were actually implemented, the "problems" did take up a considerable amount of the council's business. Oddly enough, the Panhellenic Council never considered alternatives such as raising the chapter limitation or the addition of another sorority to campus.

In November 1961 the Panhellenic Council, for the first and only time in its history, placed one of its member organizations on social probation. When the Drake chapter of Chi Omega was discovered to have participated in an "unregistered, unchaperoned party at which liquor was served,"³² the Panhellenic Council Executive Board ruled that

Chi Omega be placed on a general probationary period extending from November 12, 1961 to April 1, 1962 which shall include the following restrictions:

- 1) No formal dances shall be held during this period.
- 2) No house parties with dates in attendance shall be held during this period.
- 3) No exchanges or mixers shall be held for or by Chi Omega during this period.³³

Throughout the 1960s the number of women enjoying sorority membership continued to climb. Although the percentage of eligible Drake women who were affiliated fluctuated somewhat because of a likewise steadily increasing university enrollment, each fall a large portion of the freshman class pledged. Typically, 300 or more women would examine sorority life each fall; this number reached an all-time high of nearly 400 in the fall of 1966. One year later, as a response to the fear that "if we do not grow, independents will take over,"³⁴ the Panhellenic Council voted unanimously to grant Gamma Phi Beta's request to colonize a chapter on campus. With Gamma Phi Beta's

1968 installation, membership in the council increased to nine sororities.

The rapid growth of the sorority system was accompanied by additional changes in Panhellenic procedure; the most significant of these modifications was the adoption of a quota/limitation system controlling chapter size. This method differed from the prior limitation procedure as it allowed each chapter the opportunity to pledge a fixed number of women, determined the preceeding semester, during the rushing period.³⁵ Previously the number of new members a chapter was permitted depended upon the current size of the chapter; the adoption of a quota/limitation helped stabilize chapter membership from year to year. Other policy variations instituted during the decade included the establishment of a Panhellenic Judicial Board which, in the event of violations of the Panhellenic constitution and bylaws, standing rules, or the NPC Compact, was to "decide the type and time length of penalties."³⁶ Provisions for such a judicial board have been included in the Panhellenic constitution since 1968, although there is no record that the board has ever reviewed a violation.

The "fraternity depression" impacted many Greek communities in the early 1970s and left a heavy mark on the sororities at Drake University. Sorority affiliation which peaked at nearly 600 women or 32% of the female population on campus in 1967, had declined to 470 women, or 26% by 1971. The number of women participating in rush likewise plummeted during this period, as new students rejected the Greek experience and the traditionalism it represented. Some of those who did affiliate would later refuse to fulfill chapter house residency requirements, thus leaving large houses functioning at less than capacity during a time when rising energy costs were driving operating expenses higher. By the conclusion of the decade three sororities had become inactive and a fourth found itself in an irreversible downward trend.

The first sorority to leave the campus since Phi Mu's demise in 1952 was Alpha Epsilon Phi. While the sorority had never been a particularly strong force on the campus, a widely publicized charge of racial discrimination against the chapter in 1969 crippled its attempts to maintain stability. By the spring of 1973 it had become "obvious they are not going to survive;"³⁷ in November 1973 the national organization announced the closing of the chapter.

Contributing to the problem of a decreased pool of potential members was the

implementation of a deferred rush program in the fall of 1973. Established upon the recommendation of the Deferred Rush Committee of the Drake University Senate, the program delayed the fall recruitment period for several weeks. An outcome of the delay was that only 200 women participated in rush, representing the lowest recorded turnout since 1956. Only 78 women were pledged to sororities at the conclusion of the formal rush, the bulk of this number to the sororities which were already enjoying large memberships. Once again a serious membership imbalance developed among sororities, with Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Zeta, and Gamma Phi Beta representing the smaller chapters. The Panhellenic Council attempted, with little success, to remedy the situation by making sorority rush less structured, and by lowering the rush registration fee from \$5 to \$2. In 1973 the Panhellenic Council implemented its present system of chapter limitation: quota/total.³⁸ This method, differing slightly from quota/limitation, provided for the establishment of a pledge quota based on the current number of rushees, rather than on the "trend" of previous rushes. Because of the pledge quota in the quota/limitation method had been determined the semester before rush, the quota was not always realistic. A quota/total procedure, in addition to helping stabilize membership among chapters, generally allowed for the maximum number of women to be pledged to sororities.

Recruitment difficulties continued to plague the smaller chapters. In 1976 Alpha Xi Delta left the campus with a caveat that

Two sorority houses leaving a campus within three years is not an indication of a healthy Panhellenic system. We can only hope that you will realize this and make a deep introspection into the Panhellenic system at Drake and seek remedies.³⁹

Unfortunately the situation continued to deteriorate. As a result of another deferred rushing program, the fall 1978 recruitment program netted only 95 sorority pledges. Although a year later fall rush was held earlier in the semester, it proved to be even more dismal; 76 women were pledged after the lowest rush turnout since World War II. Not a single one of the 76 women were pledged to Delta Zeta; in October 1979, the national organization announced that the chapter had become inactive. Delta Zeta's passing left six sororities in operation at Drake University.

Finally, in the fall of 1980, the number of women participating in rush began to

increase. In 1981, 270 women—the most in a decade—took part in the recruitment process. Although the membership of one chapter, Gamma Phi Beta, lagged considerably behind the size of other sororities on campus, the Panhellenic Council decided, in the spring of 1981, to expand. An Expansion Committee selected Pi Beta Phi to colonize on the campus during the spring of 1983. In the meantime, Gamma Phi Beta's situation grew increasingly troublesome. Following an unsuccessful attempt at reorganization, Gamma Phi Beta announced that its Drake chapter would close in May 1983.

Following its October 1983 installation, Pi Beta Phi became a voting member of the governing body. At present six sororities comprise the Drake Women's Social Panhellenic Council: Alpha Phi, Delta Gamma, Chi Omega, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and Pi Beta Phi.

Direction of the Panhellenic Council has generally been accorded to the dean of women or her functional equivalent. During the 1920s an advisory board, composed of three alumnae who usually were also Drake faculty members, was elected by the Panhellenic Council to assist the dean of women. By 1973 an alumnae advisory council, composed of an alumna representative of each sorority, had been established to fulfill the role of advisory board. Since 1980 the coordinator of Greek life has been the sole advisor to the Panhellenic Council, although each Panhellenic delegate also retains an alumna advisor.

The qualifications of Panhellenic Council delegates has also varied over the years. From the establishment of the Inter-Club Conclave until 1921, each group elected two members to serve as delegates; from 1921-73, one delegate was elected and the second consisted of the chapter president.⁴⁰ Since 1973, each member group has elected two delegates to serve on the council. The Panhellenic Council Executive Board has similarly undergone an evolution of sorts. From 1921 until 1968, a schedule of officer rotation was used; in 1969 a combined system of election and rotation was adopted. All officers were elected from 1972 until 1981, when the combined rotation system was reintroduced.

An auxiliary to the Panhellenic Council, the Junior Panhellenic Council, has occasionally functioned at Drake. The Panhellenic Council initially discussed the creation of a junior counterpart in 1957; four years later the first such council was formed. The group subsequently has passed in and out of activity.

- ¹National Panhellenic Conference, College Panhellenic Agreement, adopted in 1957.
- ²Constitution, Drake University Women's Social Panhellenic Council, revised, spring 1978.
- ³"The Drake Daily Delphic," September 23, 1911.
- ⁴Bylaws, Drake University Inter-Club Conclave, adopted January 16, 1912.
- ⁵Bylaws, Drake University Inter-Club Conclave (undated).
- ⁶"The Drake Daily Delphic," September 17, 1913.
- ⁷"The Drake Daily Delphic," June 3, 1915.
- ⁸The preferential bidding system is still utilized at Drake University.
- ⁹Mae Mitchell Lorentzen, Iota Alpha Omega, Drake University, to Delta Gamma, February 1920.
- ¹⁰Mae Mitchell Lorentzen, to Delta Gamma, February 27, 1920.
- ¹¹The meeting had originally been scheduled for May 2 by Mary C. Love Collins, national president of Chi Omega and chairman of the NPC; Collins had left Drake immediately following the installation of Chi Omega to preside over the installation of a chapter at the University of Minnesota. However, the representatives of the three other national organizations "met in conference and decided that it would suit them better to hold the Panhellenic meetings on Sunday morning when they could all be here." Mary Rosemond, past national vice president, Delta Gamma, to Leulah Judson Hawley, secretary-editor, Delta Gamma, May 24, 1921.
- ¹²*The Quax*, Drake University (1928), p. 222.
- ¹³Florence Burton-Roth and May Cynthia Whiting-Westermann, *The History of Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity: 1870-1930* (n.p.: Kappa Kappa Gamma, 1932), p. 500.
- ¹⁴Alumnae Panhellenics are established to interpret the fraternity system to the community and to assist college Panhellenic's whenever possible. The Des Moines Women's Panhellenic Association was organized in 1900.
- ¹⁵From its founding in 1901 until 1914, Alpha Sigma Alpha was a general sorority, with membership open to women in all fields. At its 1914 convention, the sorority voted to restrict its chapter roll to teachers colleges and departments of education. In 1947 Alpha Sigma Alpha was admitted to associate membership in the NPC, signifying its return to a general sorority. Alpha Sigma Alpha became a full NPC member in 1951.
- ¹⁶"The Drake Times-Delphic," October 8, 1925. In 1926, Alpha Sigma Alpha joined five other groups in the formation of the Professional Panhellenic Council.
- ¹⁷Pi Kappa Sigma was installed on May 28, 1925; it became inactive in 1932.
- ¹⁸"The Eleusis of Chi Omega," November 1921, p. 384.
- ¹⁹"The Drake Times-Delphic," March 10, 1939.
- ²⁰This first limitation method differs somewhat from the present quota/total system in use today. The initial arrangement limited chapters to 40 members including both initiated members and pledges. A chapter could exceed limitation by petitioning for and receiving special permission from the Panhellenic Council. The present quota/total system allows each chapter, regardless of its number of initiated members, to pledge a common number of new members (quota). A smaller chapter may exceed its pledge quota if its entire membership is less than the allowable size (total).
- ²¹Minutes, Panhellenic Council, January 25, 1945.
- ²²Minutes, Student Activities Committee, Drake University Senate, December 13, 1949.
- ²³Minutes, Panhellenic Council, December 1945.
- ²⁴Minutes, Panhellenic Council, November 10, 1948.
- ²⁵Robert B. Kamm, to Henry Harmon, president, Drake University, August 24, 1948.
- ²⁶Robert B. Kamm, to Mildred Carl, president, Drake Panhellenic Council, February 11, 1949.
- ²⁷Although Dean of Students Kamm was the major proponent of the deferred rush program implemented in 1949, a delayed rush had been proposed by the Student-Faculty Council (S-FC) in March 1948. Upon review of the S-FC proposal, the Panhellenic Council "cited that NPC does not recommend deferred rushing and that several sororities on this campus are pledged to their national organizations to oppose deferred rushing." After discussion the general consensus of opinion was "definitely not in favor of deferred rushing." Minutes, Panhellenic Council, March 3, 1948.
- ²⁸Minutes, Panhellenic Council, October 8, 1947.
- ²⁹Minutes, Panhellenic Council, September 7, 1946.
- ³⁰Although it is unclear which, if any, university administrative body sanctioned Alpha Epsilon Phi's establishment at Drake, it appears that the Committee on Fraternity and Sorority Affairs had ceased to exist by 1950.
- ³¹Minutes, Panhellenic Council, September 23, 1959.
- ³²Paul Bloland, dean of students, Drake University, to Stuart Daniels, executive director, Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, November 16, 1961.
- ³³Sue Hoffman, secretary, Panhellenic Council, to Marjorie Cunningham, assistant dean of students, November 10, 1961.

³⁴Minutes, Panhellenic Council, November 4, 1964. Approval of Gamma Phi Beta's request to colonize was accorded on December 2, 1964, although for reasons which remain unclear, the sorority did not establish a Drake chapter until 1967.

³⁵Although the chapter limitation method described differs somewhat from that recommended by the NPC, the term quota/limitation is the most suitable to describe the system used by Drake University during the 1960s.

³⁶Constitution, Women's Social Panhellenic Council, revised, spring 1968.

³⁷Dr. Donald Adams, vice president, student life,

to president's staff, Drake University, December 4, 1972.

³⁸The NPC recommends the adoption of quota/total in order to provide an opportunity for as many women as possible to pledge, and to assist in maintaining adequate strength in sorority chapters. Quota is the number of women a chapter may pledge during rush; total is the allowable chapter size, as determined by the college Panhellenic, and includes both pledges and initiated members.

³⁹Alpha Iota chapter, Alpha Xi Delta, to Drake Panhellenic Council, May 4, 1976.

⁴⁰During the 1950s, each chapter's delegate consisted of its president and rush chairman.

Appendix I

Fraternity Scholarship

The computation of the academic achievement of Drake social fraternities may have been undertaken as early as 1913, when the university formally recognized their existence.¹ Initially, such information was accorded minimal importance, with rankings rarely published in *The Delphic*. The 1920 barrage of petitions from Drake local fraternities to national organizations made little or no mention of scholastic achievement, perhaps due to the fact that such data was relatively unavailable.

In the fall of 1921, the Des Moines Women's Pan Hellenic Association announced the creation of an award to be presented to the Drake sorority with the highest chapter grade-point average. Three years later the Drake Men's Pan Hellenic followed their example and instituted what would become commonly known as the scholarship cup. However, unlike the women's award—which was presented on an academic year basis—the fraternity scholarship cup was awarded at the conclusion of each semester. This practice has been strictly adhered to, with the exception of the 1975-76 and 1976-77 school years.

It appears that from the inception of the

scholarship cup the grades of pledges have been used in determining the recipient. From fall 1975 through fall 1980 pledge scholarship was not included in the calculation of "chapter" scholarship, presenting a rather skewed picture of an organization's academic performance. In the fall of 1959, an individual award for pledge scholarship was initiated.

Scholastic accomplishment has not been one of the major strengths of the Drake fraternity system. On only seven recorded occasions since 1924² has the all-fraternity grade-point average exceeded that of the all men's. Every member of the Drake Interfraternity Council has won the scholarship cup at least once; six have received it for three consecutive semesters,³ "retiring" the trophy in the process. Alpha Epsilon Pi was awarded the scholarship cup the most consecutive semesters (seven), and Pi Kappa Phi has displayed the best overall performance, having received the award 16 semesters of the 64 it has been eligible. Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Chi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and Tau Kappa Epsilon have all received scholarship awards from their respective national organizations.

¹Kappa Lambda's successful 1923 petition to Alpha Tau Omega claimed that Drake had calculated fraternity scholarship for a period of "ten years" and that it had earned the highest grade-point average during eight of them. Other sources suggest that the petition was correct.

An article appearing in the February 21, 1912, "The Drake Delphic" stated that the Men's Inter-Club Council had agreed to obtain "the average grade of all the members of each club [to] be submitted to that club only." Apparently,

such calculations were for the internal use of the fraternities and were not retained by the university.

²Fall 1954; spring 1955; fall 1956; spring 1959; fall 1962; spring 1969; and spring 1970.

³Alpha Epsilon Pi (who retired the trophy twice), Alpha Tau Omega, Pi Kappa Phi (two trophy retirements), Sigma Chi, Tau Kappa Epsilon (three trophy retirements), and Theta Chi.

Fraternity Scholarship—pledges And Actives

Semester	ΑΕΠ	ΑΤΩ	ΚΑΨ	ΦΔΘ	ΠΚΑ	ΠΚΦ	ΣΑΕ	ΣΧ	ΣΦΕ	ΤΚΕ	ΘΧ	ΖΒΤ	Award Winner	All-Fraternity Average	All-Men's Average
F 1924									1				ΣΦΕ*		
S '25										1			ΤΚΕ*		
F '25		1					4		3	2			ΑΤΩ		
S '26		2					3		4	1			ΓΕΚ		
F '26		2					1		4	3			ΣΑΕ		
S '27		1					4		2	3			ΑΤΩ		
F '27		3					4		1	2			ΣΦΕ*		
S '28	records unavailable														
F '28	records unavailable														
S '29	records unavailable														
F '29	records unavailable														
S '30							1						ΣΑΕ		
F '30		3					2		4	1			ΤΚΕ*		
S '31		4					2		3	1			ΤΚΕ*		
F '31		3					2		4	1			ΤΚΕ*		
S '32		3					1		4	2			ΣΑΕ	3.21	3.29
F '32		2					1		3	4			ΣΑΕ	3.18	
S '33		2					3		4	1			ΤΚΕ		
F '33		1					3		4	2			ΑΤΩ		
S '34		2					3		4	1			ΤΚΕ	3.11	3.15
F '34		3					4		1	2			ΣΦΕ*		
S '35		3					4		1	2			ΣΦΕ*	2.95	3.06
F '35		3					2			1			ΤΚΕ		
S '36		3					2			1			ΤΚΕ	2.59	2.68
F '36		2					3			1			ΤΚΕ	2.50	
S '37	1	3					5		4	2			ΤΚΕ**	2.85	3.49
F '37	2	3					5		4	1			ΤΚΕ	2.71	2.93
S '38	1	2					5		4	3			ΑΕΠ	2.94	3.16
F '38	1	3					5		2	4			ΑΕΠ	2.38	2.68
S '39	1	2					4		3	5			ΑΕΠ	2.57	2.88
F '39	1	4					2		5	3			ΑΕΠ	2.72	2.76
S '40	1	2					3		5	4			ΑΕΠ		
F '40	1	2					4		5	3			ΑΕΠ	2.63	2.68
S '41	1	4					2		5	3			ΑΕΠ	2.63	2.85
F '41	2	1					3		5	4			ΑΤΩ	2.67	3.02
S '42	records unavailable														
F '42		3					2		4	1			ΤΚΕ	2.47	3.14
S '43	World War II: records not maintained														
F '43	World War II: records not maintained														
S '44	World War II: records not maintained														
F '44	World War II: records not maintained														
S '45	World War II: records not maintained														
F '45		3					2			1			ΤΚΕ		
S '46										1			ΤΚΕ		
F '46										1			ΤΚΕ		

Fraternity Scholarship

Semester	ΑΕΠ	ΑΤΩ	ΚΑΨ	ΦΔΘ	ΠΚΑ	ΠΚΦ	ΣΑΕ	ΣΧ	ΣΦΕ	ΤΚΕ	ΘΧ	ZBT	Award Winner	All-Fraternity Average	All-Men's Average
S '47	4	3					2		5	1			ΤΚΕ		
F '47	3 ^t	3 ^t					2		5	1			ΤΚΕ		
S '48	3	2					1		5	4			ΣΑΕ		
F '48	5	1					2		4	3			ΑΤΩ		
S '49	7	1			5	2	4		6	3	8		ΑΤΩ	2.92	3.06
F '49	3	4			2	1	6		5	7	8		ΑΕΠ**	2.89	3.05
S '50	3	8			1	4	5		7	2	6		ΤΚΕ**	3.00	3.22
F '50	3	2			4	1	6		7	8	5		ΑΤΩ**	2.15 ⁽¹⁾	2.22
S '51	3	4			6	2	8		7	5	1		ΘΧ	2.27	2.37
F '51	8	4			1	5	2		6	7	3		ΠΚΑ	2.10	2.29
S '52	1	2			7	5	4		3	6	8		ΑΕΠ	2.26	2.37
F '52	8	2			8	1	3		5 ^t	5 ^t	7		ΠΚΦ	2.16	2.21
S '53	4	3			6	1	5		7	2	8		ΠΚΦ	2.27	2.38
F '53	7	2			8	1	4		5	3	6		ΠΚΦ	2.20	2.27
S '54	7	2			5	1	6		4	3	8		ΠΚΦ	2.30	2.40
F '54	3	2			8	1	4		5	6	7		ΠΚΦ ⁽²⁾	2.33	2.30
S '55	1	3			7	2	4		5	6	8		ΑΕΠ	2.40	2.33
F '55	5	1			4	7	6		2	3	8		ΑΤΩ	2.23	2.27
S '56	9	1			2	6	8		7	3	5		ΑΤΩ	2.31	2.36
F '56	2	1			7	6	8		5	3	4		ΑΤΩ	2.25	2.15
S '57	4	2	8	10	5	1	7		6	3	9		ΠΚΦ	2.34	2.37
F '57	4	2		9	8	7	1		3	5	6		ΣΑΕ	2.26	2.29
S '58	1	2		9	6	8	3		4	7	5		ΑΕΠ	2.37	2.42
F '58	4	3	1	9	10	8	7		6	2	5		ΚΑΨ	2.24	2.28
S '59	7	2	1	10	9	8	5 ^t		4	3	5 ^t		ΚΑΨ	2.38	2.34
F '59	4	2	NR	7	8	6	5		3	9	1		ΘΧ	2.25	2.27
S '60	7	3	NR	4	9	8	6		2	5	1		ΘΧ	2.34	2.37
F '60	4	1	NR	2	9	8	3		5	7	6		ΑΤΩ	2.24	
S '61	4	7	NR	1	9	8	2		5	3	6		ΦΔΘ*	2.30	
F '61	2	1	9	4	10	5	3		6	8	7		ΑΤΩ	2.26	2.27
S '62	4	3	10	2	8	6	7		1	9	5		ΣΦΕ	2.30	2.38
F '62	7	4	10	1	6	3	2			5	NR		ΦΔΘ	2.27	2.22
S '63	5	9	10	2	6	1	7		4	8	3		ΠΚΦ	2.30	2.38
F '63	5	1	2	4	10	6	3		7	8	9		ΑΤΩ	2.30	2.39
S '64	4	6	3	2	10	7	5		1	8	9		ΣΦΕ	2.34	2.41
F '64	7	2	8	4	5	10	1		3	9	6		ΣΑΕ	2.25	2.32
S '65	8	10	7	4	6	9	2		3	5	1		ΘΧ	2.33	2.35
F '65	2	5	7	10	1	9	6		4	8	3		ΠΚΑ	2.25	2.37
S '66	4	7	2	10	8	9	5		1	3	6		ΣΦΕ	2.37	2.44
F '66	2	8	10	3	4	1	6		5	7	9		ΠΚΦ	2.35	2.40
S '67	3	8	10	4	5	1	7		9	2	5		ΠΚΦ	2.46	2.49
F '67	1	8	10	3	4	2	9		5	7	6		ΑΕΠ	2.32	2.38
S '68	6	3	1	8	9	4	7		6	2	5		ΚΑΨ	2.50	2.52
F '68	4	9	8	7	6	1	3		5	10	2		ΠΚΦ	2.36	2.41
S '69	2	10	9	3	7	6	5		4	8	1		ΘΧ	2.51	2.50
F '69	5	9	3	1	4	2	6		7	10	8		ΦΔΘ	2.36	2.41

	ΑΕΠ	ΑΤΩ	ΚΑΨ	ΦΔΘ	ΠΚΑ	ΠΚΦ	ΣΑΕ	ΣΧ	ΣΦΕ	ΤΚΕ	ΘΧ	ΖΒΤ			
S '70	6	10	8	1	7	3	4		2	9	5		ΦΔΘ	2.51	2.50
F '70	6	9	10	3	8	1	2		4	5	7		ΠΚΦ	2.46	2.52
S '71	5	8		7	10	1	4		6	9	2	3	ΠΚΦ	2.74	2.75
F '71	5	10		4	6	2	3		7	8	9	1	ΖΒΤ	2.55	2.73
S '72						1							ΠΚΦ		
F '72						1							ΠΚΦ		
S '73						1							ΠΚΦ		
F '73							1						ΣΑΕ		
S '74						1							ΠΚΦ		
F '74							1						ΣΑΕ		
S '75				1									ΦΔΘ		
F '75				1									ΦΔΘ ^(3,4)		
S '76				1									ΦΔΘ ^(3,4)		
F '76	9	NR		2	5	3	4	1	6	7	8		ΣΧ ^(3,4)		
S '77	9	NR		3	6	2	5	4	8	1	7		ΣΧ ^(3,4)		
F '77	9	6		5	1	6	2	3	NR	4	7		ΣΧ ⁽⁴⁾		
S '78	7	10		3	4	6	5	2	9	1	8		ΣΧ ⁽⁴⁾		
F '78	8	9		3	2	5	4	1	NR	6	7		ΣΧ ⁽⁴⁾		
S '79	NR	NR		4	2	7	6	3	NR	1	7		ΤΚΕ ⁽⁴⁾		
F '79	8	9		6	2	8	5	1	NR	3	4		ΤΚΕ ⁽⁴⁾	2.68	2.74
S '80	8	9		3	7	4	2	1	NR	5	6		ΣΧ ⁽⁴⁾	2.71	2.76
F '80	9	10		6	2	7	5	1	8	3	4		ΣΧ ⁽⁴⁾	2.61	2.71
S '81	10	8		6 ¹	2	6 ¹	4 ¹	4 ¹	9	3	1		ΘΧ		
F '81	6	10		8	4	7	5	2	9	3	1		ΘΧ	2.60	2.70
S '82		9		6	5	7	2	3	8	4	1		ΘΧ	2.59	2.74
F '82		9		6	5	7	4	2	8	3	1		ΘΧ	2.59	2.71
S '83		9		6	3	7	5	2	8	4	1		ΘΧ	2.63	2.74

(S) Spring

(F) Fall

* Denotes that a local fraternity which later affiliated with national organization so credited was the actual award winner.

** Denotes gradepoint average of award winner was exceeded by that of a probationary member of the Interfraternity Council, and thus ineligible to receive the scholarship cup.

t Tie

NR No scholarship roster filed

(1) In the fall of 1950, Drake University converted from a six-point to a four-point grading system.

(2) When "the wrong John Thompson" was figured into the gradepoint of Alpha Tau Omega, it was mistakenly presented with the scholarship cup. Correcting the error gave Pi Kappa Phi a .049 margin over Alpha Tau Omega, and the cup was re-awarded.

(3) Denotes highest gradepoint average over one academic year.

(4) Denotes scholarship of pledge class not included in calculation of award recipient.

Appendix II

Sorority Scholarship



The scholarship of Drake sororities was first calculated in approximately 1914, at the suggestion of Dean of Women Elizabeth Jordan. Although no awards were presented to Drake's local sororities for outstanding scholarship, the respective standings were published annually in *The Delphic*. Many

sororities included these calculations in their petitions to national organizations in 1920.

In the fall of 1921, in recognition of the establishment of national sororities on campus, the Des Moines Women's Panhellenic Association¹ announced the creation of a scholarship trophy to be awarded to the Drake sorority with the highest academic average during the school year. This trophy was awarded annually until the conclusion of the 1940 spring semester, at which time the Drake Panhellenic Council began awarding its own scholarship trophy on a semesterly basis.²

A separate recognition for outstanding pledge scholarship was established in the fall of 1959. Grades received by pledges have been included in determining the recipient of the Panhellenic scholarship trophy, with the exception of a period from the fall of 1975 through the fall of 1980.

Although the scholarship of Drake's sororities has been superior to that of its fraternities, the all-sorority average has not consistently exceeded the all-women's average. Sorority scholarship has surpassed that of Drake women in general on 26 occasions.³ All present members⁴ of the Drake Panhellenic have won the scholarship trophy at least five times, with the exception of Pi Beta Phi, which due to its 1983 installation has technically not yet been eligible.⁵ Kappa Alpha Theta has received the award for the most consecutive semesters (19),⁶ and Kappa Kappa Gamma has exhibited the best over-all scholastic performance, having won the Panhellenic scholarship trophy 45⁷ of the 123 semesters which it has been eligible.

¹Frequently referred to as "City Panhellenic," the Des Moines Women's Panhellenic Association was organized in 1900. Alumnae Panhellenics are established to interpret the fraternity system to the community and to assist college Panhellenics whenever possible.

²There was some overlap between the two

awards. Kappa Alpha Theta received the Des Moines Panhellenic Association trophy for the 1939-40 school year; Kappa Kappa Gamma was awarded the Drake Panhellenic trophy for the spring 1940 semester, having surpassed the scholarship of Kappa Alpha Theta for the single term.

³Fall 1938; spring 1939; spring 1940—spring 1941; fall 1942; spring 1943; fall 1944; spring 1945; fall 1949; fall 1954; fall 1955—spring 1958; spring 1959; spring 1963; spring 1965; spring 1966; fall 1966; spring 1968; fall 1968; fall 1971; fall 1971; and spring 1974.

Drake scholastic records are incomplete and thus it is possible that the all-sorority average exceeded that all-women's average on one or more undocumented occasions.

⁴Former Panhellenic members which are not active chapters but received the scholarship trophy during their operation at Drake include Alpha Epsilon Phi, Alpha Sigma Alpha, Alpha Xi Delta, Delta Zeta, and Gamma Phi Beta. Only Alpha Chi Omega and Phi Mu were never presented with the award.

⁵The Pi Beta Phi colony did however receive the pledge scholarship trophy for the spring semester of 1983.

⁶This figure represents Kappa Alpha Theta's receipt of the Des Moines Panhellenic Association scholarship trophy for ten consecutive schoolyears (1930-31 through 1939-40). It is unknown if the sorority had the highest grade-point average during each individual semester, since the award was based upon the highest average for the academic year.

⁷This figure includes the four years during which Kappa Kappa Gamma received the Des Moines Panhellenic Association scholarship trophy; it is unknown if the sorority had the highest grade-point average during each of the eight semesters, as the award was based upon the highest average for the academic year.

Sorority Scholarship—Drake University

Semester	AXΩ	AEΦ	AΦ	AΞΔ	XΩ	ΔΓ	ΔZ	ΓΦB	KAΘ	KKΓ	ΦM	Award Winner	All- Sorority Average	All-Women's Average
1921/22 ^(a)	7			5	3	2			6	1		KKΓ	3.84	
'22/'23						1			4			ΔΓ	3.47	
'23/'24						2						AΞΔ ^(b)		
'24/'25					4	2			5	1		KKΓ	3.68	
'25/'26	4			5	7	6			1	2	3	KAΘ		
'26/'27	6			5	7	3 ⁽¹⁾			1	2	4	KAΘ	3.36	
'27/'28				4	5				2	1	7	KKΓ	3.55	
'28/'29	6			3	5	4			2	1	7	KKΓ		
'29/'30	3			4	7	6			2	1	5	KKΓ ^(c)	3.61	
'30/'31	2			5	7	4			1	3	6	KAΘ		
'31/'32									1			KAΘ		
'32/'33	4			2	6	5			1	3		KAΘ		
'33/'34				3	4	5			1	2		KAΘ		
'34/'35				3	5	4			1	2		KAΘ		
'35/'36				2	5	4			1	3		KAΘ		
'36/'37				3 [†]	4	2			1	3 [†]		KAΘ	3.70	
'37/'38				5	4	3			1	2		KAΘ	3.71	
'38/'39				4	(d)	2			1	3		KAΘ	3.42	3.38
'39/'40				3	5	4			1	2		KAΘ		
S '40				4	5	3			2	1		KKΓ	3.59	3.38
F '40				3	4	5			2	1		KKΓ	3.40	3.27
S '41				3	4	5			2	1		KKΓ	3.50	3.41
F '41				2	4	5			3	1		KKΓ	3.35	3.40
S '42				1	4	5			2	3		AΞΔ	3.37	3.50
F '42				4	1	2			3	5		XΩ	3.58	3.53
S '43				2	1	4			3	5		XΩ	3.74	3.68
F '43				2	1	4			3	5		XΩ	3.75	
S '44				1	4	3			2	5		AΞΔ	3.78	
F '44				5	3	2			4	1		KKΓ	3.78	3.56
S '45				4	2	3			5	1		KKΓ	3.79	3.61
F '45				5	2	4			3	1		KKΓ		
S '46				4	3	5	6		2	1		KKΓ		
F '46				5	6	4	3		2	1		KKΓ	3.59	
S '47				5	6	4	3		2	1		KKΓ	3.74	
F '47				6	3	1	4		5	2		ΔΓ	3.62	
S '48				3	2	1	6		5	4		ΔΓ		
F '48				5	6	2	3		1	4		KAΘ		
S '49							1					ΔZ		
F '49				1	6	2	4		3	5	7	AΞΔ	3.76	3.62
S '50				2	7	1	4		3	5	6	ΔΓ	3.79	
F '50		8		3	6	5	4		1	2	7	KAΘ	2.63	
S '51		7		4	3	2	8		5	1	6	KKΓ	2.60	
F '51		1		2	8	5	3		4	6	7	AΞΔ ^(e)	2.58	
S '52		7		5	4	1	2		6	3		ΔΓ	2.65	2.71

Semester	AXΩ	AEΦ	AΦ	AΞΔ	XΩ	ΔΓ	ΔΖ	ΓΦΒ	ΚΑΘ	ΚΚΓ	ΦΜ	Award Winner	All-Sorority Average	All-Women's Average
F '52		3		7	2	6	5		4	1		ΚΚΓ	2.55	2.64
S '53		5		6	2	4	7		3	1		ΚΚΓ	2.65	2.74
F '53		7		5	2	6	3		4	1		ΚΚΓ	2.61	2.67
S '54		7		6	5	4	2		1	3		ΚΑΘ	2.65	2.74
F '54		7		6	3	4	5		2	1		ΚΚΓ	2.69	2.65
S '55		7		1	6	2	3		4	5		AΞΔ	2.70	2.72
F '55		5		6	4	7	2		3	1		ΚΚΓ	2.73	2.60
S '56		4		6	7	3	5		2	1		ΚΚΓ	2.79	2.69
F '56		6		3	4	7	5		2	1		ΚΚΓ	2.80	2.67
S '57		3		6	1	5	7		4	2		XΩ	2.85	2.79
F '57		8	4	5	2	7	6		3	1		ΚΚΓ	2.70	2.63
S '58		2	5	7	4	6	8		3	1		ΚΚΓ	2.75	2.69
F '58		8	5	6	1	4	7		3	2		XΩ	2.65	2.66
S '59		8	3	6	1	5	7		4	2		XΩ	2.69	2.65
F '59		8	1	4	5	3	7		6	2		AΦ	2.61	2.59
S '60		8	3	5	6	4	7		2	1		ΚΚΓ	2.61	2.59
F '60		8	1	2	5	4	6		7	3		AΦ	2.54	2.61
S '61		7	1	2	6	3	8		4	5		AΦ	2.54	2.61
F '61		6	2	7	8	5	1		4	3		ΔΖ	2.55	2.56
S '62		8	5	2	7	6	1		3	4		ΔΖ	2.61	2.63
F '62		8	5	2	7	6	1		3	4		ΔΖ	2.52	2.58
S '63		8	1	6	7	5	3		4	2		AΦ	2.62	2.60
F '63		8	4	6	5	7	3		2	1		ΚΚΓ	2.55	2.57
S '64		8	3	7	6	5	4		2	1		ΚΚΓ	2.61	2.67
F '64		8	6	3	7	4	5		1	2		ΚΑΘ	2.61	2.55
S '65		8	5	3	7	6	4		1	2		ΚΑΘ	2.64	2.62
F '65		8	1	4	5	7	6		2	3		AΦ	2.64	2.57
S '66		8	1	5	7	6	2		3	4		AΦ	2.71	2.63
F '66		2	1	5	7	6	8		4	3		AΦ	2.65	2.62
S '67		7	1	2	4	8	6		5	3		AΦ	2.66	2.67
F '67		8	2	5	3	7	6		4	1		ΚΚΓ	2.61	2.61
S '68		9	3	2	6	7	8	5	4	1		ΚΚΓ	2.69	2.65
F '68		8	4	7	5	3	9	6	1	2		ΚΑΘ	2.67	2.62
S '69		7	2	9	6	8	5	4	3			ΚΚΓ	2.65	2.68
F '69		5	3	7	9	8	6	1	4	2		ΓΦΒ	2.73	2.77
S '70		5	4	9	6	7	8	1	3	2		ΓΦΒ	2.75	2.80
F '70		5	3	8	7	6	9	4	1	2		ΚΑΘ	2.65	2.77
S '71		5	1	6	7	9	8	3	2	4		AΦ	2.82	2.87
F '71		6	3	9	7	8	5	1	4	2		ΓΦΒ	2.844	2.843
S '72		1	3	9	7	8	9	2	3	5		AEΦ	2.88	3.01
F '72		1	4	7	8	6	9	2	3	5		AEΦ	2.90	3.05
S '73		3	6	1	7	9	5	2	4	8		AΞΔ	2.88	3.00
F '73 ⁽⁰⁾			2	7	5	4	3	6	1	9		ΚΑΘ	2.88	2.86
S '74 ⁽⁰⁾			7	5	8	4	6	2	1	3		ΚΑΘ	2.96	2.88

Sorority Scholarship

Semester	AXΩ	AEΦ	AΦ	AΞΔ	XΩ	ΔΓ	ΔZ	ΓΦB	KAΘ	KKΓ	ΦM	Award Winner	All-Sorority Average	All-Women's Average
F '74			4	7	8	3	6	2	1	5		KAΘ	2.93	3.02
S '75			4	7	8	3	6	2	1	5		KAΘ	2.99	3.11
F '75			6	8	5	3	7	4	2	1		KKΓ	2.98	3.06
S '76			6		2	3	7	5	4	1		KKΓ	2.91	3.07
F '76			7		1	3	5	2	4	6		XΩ	2.94	3.08
S '77			7		1	3	5	2	4	6		XΩ	2.89	3.06
F '77			7		3	5	6	4	2	1		KKΓ	2.99	3.03
S '78			7		2	4	6	5	3	1		KKΓ	3.00	3.02
F '78			7		5	4	3	2	6	1		KKΓ	2.94	3.01
S '79			6		2	3		4	5	1		KKΓ		
F '79			6		2	5		3	4	1		KKΓ	2.88	2.96
S '80			6		3	4		5	2	1		KKΓ	2.94	2.96
F '80			6		2	4		3	5	1		KKΓ	2.85	2.95
S '81			6		3	5		1	4	2		ΓΦB	2.88	2.99
F '81			5		3	6		1	2	4		ΓΦB	2.81	2.94
S '82			6		2	5		3	1	4		KAΘ	2.84	2.94
F '82			6		3	5		1	2	4		ΓΦB	2.78	2.94
S '83			5		2	6		3	1	4		KAΘ	2.80	2.94

(S) Spring

(F) Fall

- During the 1921-22 school year the scholarship of two local sororities was also tabulated. Alpha Gamma Tau placed fourth, while Omega Delta placed eighth.
- Alpha Sigma Alpha was a member of the Drake Panhellenic Council from 1922-25. During the 1924-25 schoolyear the sorority placed second in scholarship.
- The Drake chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma had the highest grade point average among all chapters of the national organization in the spring of 1930.
- Chi Omega was inactive during the spring 1939 semester.
- Alpha Epsilon Phi was ineligible to receive the award due to its status as a colony.
- The scholarship of Alpha Kappa Alpha, a predominately black sorority, was included within the Panhellenic rankings during the 1973-74 school year. The sorority placed eighth and ninth for the fall and spring semesters, respectively.

t Denotes a tie.

Appendix III

Fraternity and Sorority House Locations

This section is intended as a general reference only, with specific facts and circumstances regarding the acquisition and relinquishment of residences contained in the individual chapter histories.

The sources used in compiling the following list were diverse, and not always completely dependable. For instance, the *Des Moines City Directory* might not note the presence of an organization at a particular address until after it had occupied the residence for a full year. Additionally, Drake's first fraternities were prohibited from leasing residences; thus the early housing arrangements of campus Greeks went largely undocumented.

Every attempt has been made to verify each address and the years that it was occupied. Each entry is accurate within one year of the date given.

Fraternities

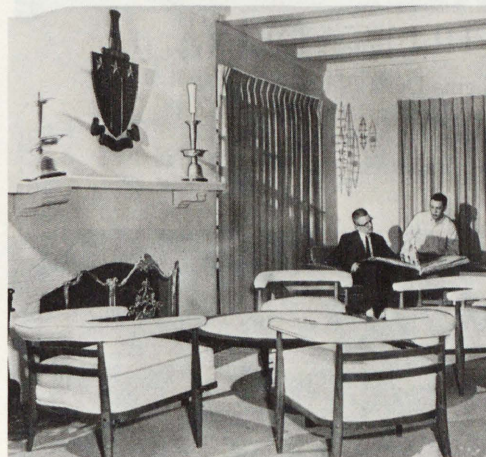
ALPHA EPSILON PI

Drake Men's Club, 1935
Alpha Deuteron chapter, 1937
Inactive, 1943-46
Charter withdrawn, 1982

1938 1001 31st Street
1939 No chapter house
1941 1112 27th Street
1942 No house maintained
1943 Inactive
1946 No house maintained
1948 2816 Cottage Grove Avenue
1953 2813 Cottage Grove Avenue
1968 1219 34th Street

ALPHA TAU OMEGA

Kappa Lambda, 1912
Delta Omicron chapter, 1923
1912 1419 24th Street



The Des Moines Register

3650 Cottage Grove Avenue (interior)
Alpha Tau Omega, 1934-78

1913 1314 26th Street
2303 Carpenter Avenue
1914 1422 28th Street
1915 1369 26th Street
1916 1069 26th Street
1917 1091 26th Street
1918 2920 Brattleboro Avenue
1922 1120 26th Street
1928 1355 30th Street
1934 3650 Cottage Grove Avenue
1943 House vacated
1944 3650 Cottage Grove Avenue
1978 1311 34th Street
1983 1218 34th Street

GAUGE AND GAVEL CLUB

Founded at Drake University, 1912
Dissolved, 1914

1913 1125 25th Street

GAMMA SIGMA KAPPA

Founded at Drake University, 1906
Absorbed by Iowa Delta of
Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 1928

Fraternity and Sorority House Locations

1910 2812 Brattleboro Avenue
 1912 1336 23rd Street
 1915 2940 Kingman Boulevard
 1916 No house recorded
 1917 1122 26th Street
 1919 1091 26th Street
 1921 1174 26th Street
 2940 Kingman Boulevard
 1922 1122 26th Street
 1924 1077 27th Street
 1925 3200 University Avenue

PHI BETA DELTA

Sigma Delta Phi, 1922
 Psi chapter, 1924
 Charter withdrawn, 1930
 No house maintained



1245 34th Street
 Phi Delta Theta, 1964-present

PHI DELTA THETA

Phi Delta Delta, 1957
 Iowa Delta chapter, 1961
 1958 2905 Carpenter Avenue
 1959 1311 34th Street
 1964 1245 34th Street

PHI GAMMA LAMBDA

Founded at Drake University, 1912
 Absorbed by Delta Omicron of
 Alpha Tau Omega, 1931

1912 2423 Drake Park Avenue
 1914 1091 26th Street
 1915 1152 21st Street
 1919 2303 Carpenter Avenue
 1122 26th Street
 1921 2901 Cottage Grove Avenue
 1923 2715 Witmer Boulevard
 1924 2840 University Avenue

1929 1122 26th Street
 2840 University Avenue

PI KAPPA ALPHA

Drake University Club, 1949
 Delta Xi colony, 1949
 Delta Omicron chapter, 1950

1949 1127 25th Street
 1950 1346 30th Street
 1956 1342 30th Street
 1963 1080 22nd Street
 1973 1314 34th Street
 1974 No house maintained
 1976 1234 32nd Street
 1983 1311 34th Street



3303 University Avenue
 Delta Gamma, 1932-44
 Theta Chi, 1951
 Pi Kappa Phi, 1952-62

PI KAPPA PHI

Pi Kappa Phi Club colony, 1948
 Beta Delta chapter, 1949

1949 2916 Cottage Grove Avenue
 1952 3303 University Avenue
 1962 3420 Kingman Boulevard
 1973 1236 34th Street

SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

Sigma Beta Kappa, 1910
 Iowa Delta chapter, 1921

1911 1120 26th Street
 1916 1061 21st Street
 1918 No house maintained
 1919 1140 21st Street
 1923 2805 Cottage Grove Avenue
 1925 3318 Forest Avenue
 1934 1235 34th Street

1943 House vacated
1945 1235 34th Street

SIGMA CHI

Phi Sigma Chi colony, 1976
Theta Gamma chapter, 1980

1978 1137 26th Street
1979 3305 Forest Avenue

SIGMA NU

Beta Delta chapter, 1891
Charter withdrawn, 1893
No house maintained

SIGMA PHI EPSILON

Chi Delta, 1907
Inactive, 1934-37, 1943-46
Iowa Delta chapter, 1948

1911 24th Street; address not recorded
1913 22nd Street; address not recorded
3205 University Avenue
1916 1317 27th Street
1919 No house maintained
1921 1173 22nd Street
1922 1003 21st Street
1924 3205 University Avenue
1929 3325 University Avenue
1935 Inactive
1937 1320 34th Street
1939 No house maintained
1940 3324 University Avenue
1941 2900 Brattleboro Avenue
1943 Inactive
1946 No house maintained
1948 2916 Cottage Grove Avenue
1949 1073 37th Street
1962 1215 34th Street

SQUARE AND COMPASS

Ashlar Club, 1925
Drake Square, 1926
Charter withdrawn, 1930

1927 2932 Brattleboro Avenue
1928 No house maintained

TAU KAPPA EPSILON

Zuma Club, 1921
Delta Zeta Chi, 1921
Alpha Xi chapter, 1932
Inactive, 1942-44

1921 3318 Forest Avenue
1923 2915 Brattleboro Avenue
1927 1103 22nd Street



1355 30th Street
Alpha Tau Omega, 1928-34
Tau Kappa Epsilon, 1937-42

1934 1320 34th Street
1936 1070 29th Street
1937 1355 30th Street
1942 Inactive
1944 No house maintained
1946 1536 30th Street
1953 No house maintained
1954 3807 University Avenue
1964 1260 34th Street

TAU PSI

Founded at Drake University, 1907
Dissolved, 1931

1909 1218 24th Street
1910 2846 Brattleboro Avenue
1911 26th Street; address not recorded
1913 1140 21st Street
1916 1004 21st Street
1918 No house maintained
1920 1911 22nd Street



3425 Kingman Boulevard
Kappa Kappa Gamma, 1928-59
Theta Chi, 1963-69

THETA CHI

Chi Alpha colony, 1948
Gamma Tau chapter, 1949

1949 2812 Cottage Grove Avenue
 1950 3721 Cottage Grove Avenue
 1951 3303 University Avenue
 1952 No house maintained
 1954 2625 Carpenter Avenue
 1955 1151 28th Street
 1956 No house maintained
 1957 1600 30th Street
 1960 1280 34th Street
 1963 3425 Kingman Boulevard
 1970 No house maintained
 1972 3120 Cottage Grove Avenue
 1974 1247 33rd Street
 1975 1320 34th Street

ZETA BETA TAU/ PHI EPSILON PI

Phi Epsilon Phi, 1965
 Beta Psi chapter, 1969
 Merger with Zeta Beta Tau, 1970
 Charter withdrawn, 1976

1968 1050 25th Street
 1973 2932 Rutland Avenue
 1974 2915 Rutland Avenue

PROFESSIONAL FRATERNITIES KNOWN TO HAVE OCCUPIED HOUSES

Aleph Theta Ze (Ministry; 1169 22nd Street)

Delta Sigma Pi (Business; 2840 University
 and 2931 Cottage Grove Avenue)

Delta Theta Phi (Law; 1217 25th Street, 2816
 Cottage Grove Avenue, and 1072 27th
 Street)

Phi Alpha Delta (Law; 2821 Brattleboro
 Avenue)

Phi Mu Alpha (Music; 2414 Kingman
 Boulevard and 2816 Cottage Grove Avenue)

SORORITIES

ALPHA CHI OMEGA

Alpha Rho Omega, 1914
 Alpha Theta chapter, 1921
 Charter withdrawn, 1933

1915 2920 Brattleboro Avenue
 1917 1336 23rd Street
 1921 1013 21st Street
 1922 1320 34th Street

ALPHA EPSILON PHI

Neonates Club, 1948
 Delta Rho colony, 1950
 Alpha Omega chapter, 1952
 Charter withdrawn, 1973

1952 2625 Carpenter Avenue
 1954 2718 University Avenue
 1963 2841 Kingman Boulevard

ALPHA GAMMA TAU

Founded at Drake University, 1908
 Dissolved, 1923

1913 2920 Brattleboro Avenue
 1915 3415 Cottage Grove Avenue
 1917 No house maintained
 1921 4105 Cottage Grove Avenue



1240 34th Street
 Alpha Phi, 1973-present

ALPHA PHI

Colonized, 1957
 Gamma Omicron chapter, 1958

1958 1236 34th Street
 1973 1240 34th Street

ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA

Grade Club, 1916
 Iota Iota chapter, 1922
 Charter withdrawn, 1936

1925 1081 25th Street
 1926 No house maintained
 1929 2901 Rutland Avenue
 1933 No house maintained

ALPHA XI DELTA

Iota Delta Omicron, 1909
 Alpha Iota chapter, 1921
 Charter withdrawn, 1976

1914 1134 25th Street

1917 No house maintained
 1920 1210 21st Street
 1921 2019 University Avenue
 1922 1161 26th Street
 1927 2934 Cottage Grove Avenue
 1928 3221 Forest Avenue
 1933 1133 37th Street
 1934 1112 29th Street
 1937 3515 University Avenue
 1939 1320 34th Street
 1975 1234 32nd Street

CHI OMEGA

Gamma Delta Phi, 1907
 Rho Beta chapter, 1921

1914 1362 24th Street
 1915 1151 23rd Street
 1916 No house maintained
 1920 1161 26th Street
 1923 2806 Brattleboro Avenue
 1937 1070 29th Street
 1938 1104 36th Street
 1939 No house maintained
 1940 3114 Cottage Grove Avenue
 1945 2700 University Avenue
 1962 1243 34th Street



1227 34th Street (interior)
 Delta Gamma, 1963-present

DELTA GAMMA

Iota Alpha Omega, 1906
 Alpha Lambda Chapter, 1921

1914 1074 24th Street
 1915 No house maintained
 1922 2615 26th Street
 1923 1118 26th Street
 1924 2821 Brattleboro Avenue
 1926 3015 Kingman Boulevard
 1927 3782 Cottage Grove Avenue
 1929 4018 Kingman Boulevard
 1932 3303 University Avenue

1944 1080 22nd Street
 1963 1227 34th Street

DELTA ZETA

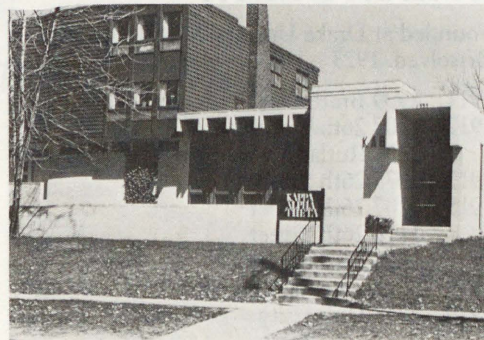
Colonized, 1946
 Gamma Epsilon chapter, 1946
 Charter withdrawn, 1979

1946 3118 Cottage Grove Avenue
 1974 1300 34th Street

KAPPA ALPHA THETA

Beta Chi Upsilon, 1907
 Beta Kappa chapter, 1921

1913 1068 29th Street
 1914 1091 26th Street
 1915 2911 Brattleboro Avenue
 1918 No house maintained



1335 34th Street
 Kappa Alpha Theta, 1947-present

1922 2840 University Avenue
 1923 1065 22nd Street
 1928 3705 University Avenue
 1929 3721 Cottage Grove Avenue
 1932 1080 31st Street
 1940 3125 Kingman Boulevard
 1943 1080 31st Street
 1944 1235 34th Street
 1945 2916 Cottage Grove Avenue
 1947 1335 34th Street

KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA

Epsilon Tau Sigma, 1903
 Gamma Theta chapter, 1921

1910 Brattleboro Avenue; address not recorded
 1911 26th Street; address not recorded
 1912 Drake Park Avenue; address not recorded
 1913 26th Street and Cottage Grove; address not recorded
 1915 No house maintained

Fraternity and Sorority House Locations

1922 1063 21st Street
 1923 2806 Rutland Avenue
 1924 1028 25th Street
 1925 3408 Cottage Grove Avenue
 1928 3425 Kingman Boulevard
 1959 1305 34th Street

KAPPA KAPPA UPSILON

Founded at Drake University, 1909
 Dissolved, 1922

1913 1336 25th Street
 1914 1238 23rd Street
 1915 1420 25th Street
 1916 1161 26th Street
 1917 25th Street; address not recorded
 1920 1149 28th Street
 1921 1342 30th Street

OMEGA DELTA

Founded at Drake University, 1907
 Dissolved, 1923

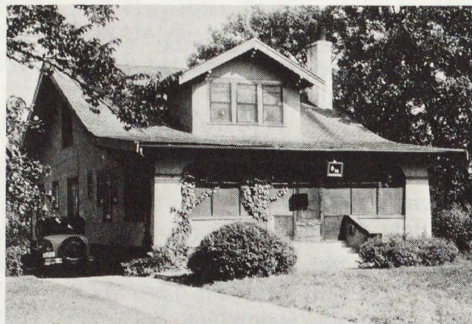
1911 2909 Brattleboro Avenue
 1912 1107 26th Street
 2837 Rutland Avenue
 1913 1075 26th Street
 1915 1107 26th Street
 1118 26th Street
 1916 1238 23rd Street
 1917 No house maintained
 1920 2718 University



2805 Brattleboro Avenue (interior)
 Phi Mu, 1927-31

PHI MU

Phi Sigma, 1922
 Zeta Delta chapter, 1922-32
 Reinstalled, 1948
 Charter withdrawn, 1952



4027 Cottage Grove Avenue
 Phi Mu, 1931-32

1922 1174 26th Street
 1927 2805 Brattleboro Avenue
 1931 4027 Cottage Grove Avenue
 1932 Inactive
 1949 3318 Forest Avenue

PI BETA PHI

Colonized, 1983
 Iowa Eta chapter, 1983
 1983 1219 34th Street

ZETA PHI

Founded at Drake University, 1909
 Dissolved, 1922

1911 2943 Brattleboro Avenue
 1914 2311 Carpenter Avenue
 1916 1124 26th Street
 1917 2812 Brattleboro Avenue
 1918 1061 21st Street

Drake Greek Traditions

- A. Greek Week
- B. Order of Omega/Gamma Gamma
- C. Sweetheart Sing
- D. Intramurals: The Voltmer

Appendix IV (A)

Greek Week

The modern adaptation of Greek Week bears little resemblance to its solemn origin, a forum on interfraternity issues conducted at Ohio University in 1930. The Ohio University conference, undertaken at the suggestion of campus professor George Starr Lasher,¹ consisted of speeches by the institution's president and the presidents of several national fraternities, as well as panel discussions led by representatives from six national organizations; the overall purpose of the event was to promote interfraternalism through an examination of common concerns and aspirations. Three years later the fraternities of Ohio State University staged a similar conference, and in the process coined the term *Greek Week*. Other institutions soon adopted the concept, which following World War II was broadened to include sorority participation and limited social activities. With the passage of time Greek Week on many, if not most campuses has placed an increasing emphasis on social pursuits, thus de-emphasizing the initial purpose of assembling a fraternity thinktank. Nonetheless, the present-day Greek Week continues to foster interfraternity relations, in addition to promoting Greek life within the university community.

The idea of bringing Greek Week to Drake University was first conceived by the Panhellenic Council, who called a joint meeting with the Interfraternity Council to discuss the possibility on October 15, 1951. The result was a rather modest undertaking, aptly entitled "Greek Weekend." Held on March 7-9, 1952, Greek Weekend consisted of a joint fraternity-sorority luncheon featuring a speech delivered by Drake President Henry Harmon; a faculty tea; and a picnic for underprivileged children. An all-Greek formal which was erroneously envisioned as "replacing the separate formulas previously held by each social group,"² was held. Sweetheart Sing was also billed as part of the festivities, although it was by no means a new event, having been conducted annually since 1935. Greek Weekend's organizers apologized for

the limited activities, explaining that "this is just a beginning and it is hoped that next year a more extensive and complete weekend will be planned."³

There was in fact a "next year" for Greek Weekend, with the expectation of additional events fulfilled. Greek Weekend's activities continued to expand and in 1957 were accommodated by the first full-fledged Greek Week. With an increase in the number of campus activities during the spring, in 1960 Greek Week was moved to the fall semester.

The highlights of each Greek Weekend/Greek Week are as follows:

1953

Stuart H. Kelly, past national president of Theta Chi Fraternity, delivered a speech entitled "Fraternity Hurdles" before the fraternity-sorority luncheon. A picnic for underprivileged children was repeated as the service project, and Wandering Greeks—an organization composed of transfer students affiliated with social organizations not represented on the Drake campus—took part in all events.

1954

William Zerman, fraternity advisor at the University of Michigan and a former field secretary for Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity,⁴ was keynote speaker at the fraternity-sorority luncheon which was attended by 550 Drake students. A picnic for underprivileged children was held for the third consecutive year.

1955

Helen Reich, assistant dean of students at the University of Iowa, addressed the fraternity-sorority luncheon on "Greek Organization and Cooperation."⁵ The tradition of awarding the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils' scholarship trophies at the luncheon was established, and as a "civic project" the porch on the Rose Cerebral Palsey Home was rebuilt and painted.

1956

Leo A. Hoegh, governor of Iowa and past national secretary of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, delivered the speech at the fraternity-sorority luncheon. Each participating organi-

zation was assigned responsibility for some portion of the weekend's festivities. A service project, assistance with the Cerebral Palsey Harvest of Hope Campaign, had been performed during the preceeding November.

1957

FIRST GREEK WEEK

Activities were commenced with an all-Greek religious service, conducted in Old Main. Fred Turner, dean of students at the University of Illinois and past national president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, spoke before a gathering of fraternity-sorority members. A sock-hop was conducted in the women's gymnasium, and "ID Day" was established with each organization wearing some type of distinctive clothing to class. Two films explaining Radio Free Europe were shown at the fraternity-sorority luncheon; solicitation of pledges for the organization was originally planned, but the university was not given sufficient time to approve the project. The week was concluded with a formal dance at which the Sweetheart Sing trophies were presented, a practice which was continued until 1963.

1958

Charles F. Wennerstrum, a 1914 Drake graduate, Iowa Supreme Court justice, and initiate of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, addressed the fraternity-sorority luncheon on "Responsibilities of Greeks." The all-Greek religious service was repeated, and money was raised for the Easter Seals Society through door-to-door solicitations.

1959

Gerald Chinn, associate professor of law at Drake University, delivered the speech at the fraternity-sorority luncheon. Fundraising for the Easter Seals Society was again adopted as the service project.

SPRING 1960

Judge Carroll Switzer of the Polk County District Court spoke before the fraternity-sorority luncheon on "The Value of the Greek System Today." A charity basketball game was played between an all-fraternity team and the Radio Station KSO's "Dirty Dribblers," with proceeds donated to a crippled children's fund.

FALL 1960

Roy L. Miller, national chronicler (and later national president) of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity and a former Drake faculty member, delivered a speech on "Greek Responsibilities" at the fraternity-sorority luncheon. During the luncheon a trophy for the most creative ID Day costumes was presented. The first Greek Week convocation was held, at which a Greek Week king and

queen were crowned; this latter tradition would endure until 1972.⁶ Exchange dinners were conducted, with the officers of various organizations dining at a particular chapter house. Due to the fact that Greek Week had been moved to the fall semester, Sweetheart Sing was held for a second time during the calendar year.

1961

Dr. M. L. Huit, dean of students at the University of Iowa, spoke at the fraternity-sorority luncheon. A charity fundraiser was again conducted with the assistance of the Dirty Dribblers; proceeds were presented to Camp Sunnyside. A service project, involving the transplanting of trees at Camp Sunnyside, was also performed. The convocation and exchange dinners were again held. All activities were planned by the Greek Week Steering Committee, which would continue until 1982.

1962

Roy L. Miller, speaking on "The Future of the Greek World," addressed the fraternity-sorority luncheon for a second time. Informal open houses were held by four organizations, and officer exchange dinners were again conducted. Discussion groups, covering topics including "Strengthening the Greek System," "Greek Stress on Scholarship," and "The Fraternity's Role in Creating School Spirit, Interest, and Participation" were held for the first time. A basketball game with the Dirty Dribblers was staged for the third consecutive year, and again proceeds were given to Camp Sunnyside. Fraternity and sorority initiates engaged in work projects throughout Des Moines, while chapter pledges undertook general maintenance at Camp Sunnyside.

1963

FIRST GREEK WEEK THEME: "TO THE WORLD WE PROMISE"

The week's theme was based on a notion, according to the official program, that lifelong Greek affiliation resulted in "benefits to both mankind and the world community." Richard Fletcher, executive secretary of Sigma Nu Fraternity, spoke at the convocation, while Kathryn Kuechenmeister Vaughn, a board member of the Alpha Xi Delta Foundation, addressed the fraternity-sorority luncheon. For the first time Sweetheart Sing trophies were presented at the luncheon; 1963 also marked the first year in which separate programs were published for both the luncheon and Sweetheart Sing. ID Day was converted to "Dress-Up Day," with each organization encouraged to wear dress attire to class; additionally, each Greek organ-

ization was encouraged to attend the church of its choice. The basketball game against the Dirty Dribblers was dropped from the schedule of events and was replaced with community service projects performed for the Des Moines Hearing and Speech Center, the Polk County Home, the Iowa Home for Sightless Women, and the Roadside Settlement. The practice of holding exchange dinners, discussion groups, and open houses was continued, while an "informal social" replaced the annual formal dance.

1964

"UNITY: CORNERSTONE OF GREEK LIFE"

Helen Snyder, dean of women at the University of Nebraska, delivered a speech at the convocation, and Dr. Gary R. Anderson, dean of students at Eastern New Mexico University, addressed the fraternity-sorority luncheon on "What Will Assure the Future of Fraternities." During the luncheon, a public relations award was presented for the first time. As a community service project, fraternity and sorority members accompanied over 200 orphaned and disadvantaged children to the Abilene Christian-Drake football game. A bicycle race was added to the list of activities,

which again included exchange dinners, open houses, and discussion groups. Greek Week was formally recognized through a proclamation issued by Des Moines Mayor Charles Iles.

1965

"CITADELS OF STRENGTH: LEADERSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP"

Dr. Robert N. Hubbell, counselor to men at the University of Iowa, spoke at the convocation, which included for the first time the tapping of new members into the Greek honorary society Gamma Gamma. Herbert Schwomeyer, dean of men at Butler University, addressed the fraternity-sorority luncheon. Discussion groups and open houses were not conducted, but exchange dinners were again held, with the guest list broadened to include Drake-area businessmen. There was no formal service project, although fraternity and sorority members did solicit contributions for the recently established Des Moines Children's Zoo. The 1965 Greek Week also included the first Greek Olympics, a competition composed of unorthodox athletic events, which was not again repeated until 1971.



Ron Lachner, left, Carol Tokosh, and Ron Olson don the regalia of Greek Week royalty, 1962.

1966

"DIRECTIONS FOR EXCELLENCE"

Betsey Brodahl, dean of women at Augustana College, spoke at the convocation. A public relations recognition award was not presented at the luncheon; instead, a community service award was given. For a second consecutive year pledge fathers/mothers were encouraged to attend the church of their choice along with their pledge sons/daughters; 1966 also marked the second year in which contributions were collected for the Des Moines Children's Zoo. Exchange dinners, an informal dance, and a "hoote-nanny," or singalong, were also held. The 1966 Greek Week was officially honored through a proclamation issued by Des Moines Mayor George C. Whitmer.

1967

"TRAVEL A UNIQUE ROAD"

Dr. David G. Brown, vice president for academic administration at Drake University, spoke to over 1200 individuals at the convocation, and Dr. Doris Seward, dean of student affairs planning at the University of Kentucky, addressed the fraternity-sorority luncheon. A kick-off bonfire at Hubbell Field was scheduled, but due to an unexpected snow storm, was cancelled. "Open house dances," featuring live entertainment, were held at three fraternity residences. Extensive service projects were undertaken, benefitting the Convalescent Home for Children, Planned Parenthood, VISTA, Orchard Place, Easter Seals, the Ramsey Memorial Home, and the detoxification center at the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery. Activities also included exchange dinners and an informal dance, while ID Day was discontinued.

1968

"REFLECTIONS OF A GREEK"

Dr. Hoke Smith, assistant to the president at Drake University, spoke at the convocation, and Dr. Ed King, dean of men at Bradley University, addressed the fraternity-sorority luncheon, where the first Greek Week Participation Trophy was presented. Greek Week was commenced with a bonfire at Hubbell Field, where Des Moines Mayor Thomas Urban officially opened the festivities. Service projects included cleaning and general maintenance work at the Roadside Settlement House, Julia B. Mayer Center, and Wilke House; additionally, a "Sensitivity Session" for Drake underclassmen was conducted. Open house dances, exchange dinners, and an informal dance completed the week's activities.

1969

"DARE TO EXCELL"

Dr. Donald V. Adams, the recently appointed vice president of student life at Drake University, spoke at the fraternity-sorority luncheon; the convocation which had first been held in 1960 was dropped from the schedule of events. The bonfire of the previous year was not held due to a newly enacted city ordinance banning open burning. Service projects similar to those performed in 1968 were undertaken, and over 100 Greeks agreed to begin tutoring underprivileged children on a weekly basis. The Greek Week dance featured music by The American Breed, whose single *Bend Me, Shape Me* sold over three million copies.⁸

1970

"DIMENSION IN SIGHT"

The theme, the first to relate to a philanthropy or service project, attempted to publicize the needs and abilities of the blind. Kenneth Jernigan, director of the Iowa Commission for the Blind and president of the National Federation of the Blind, spoke at the fraternity-sorority luncheon. During the luncheon the first Greek Excellence Trophy, a recognition of outstanding Greek, campus, and community involvement, was presented to both a fraternity and a sorority. Open house dances were replaced with a three-band concert, held on the football field. A "Road Rally" was undertaken as a fund raising project to assist in defraying the costs of a teach-in on blindness. Held at the KRNT Theatre, the teach-in, which was co-sponsored by the Greek Week committee and the Iowa State Commission for the Blind, educated the public on blindness and was the first of its kind in the country.

1971

"HE'S MY BROTHER"

The week's theme related to the acceptance of the mentally retarded. Evelyn R. Villines, a spokesperson for handicapped individuals, addressed the fraternity-sorority luncheon. Mentally handicapped children were the guests of Drake Greeks at Sweetheart Sing, the annual dance, a football game, and the Greek Olympics, which was revived as a Greek Week event. Additionally the Greek Week Committee, in conjunction with the Polk County Association for Retarded Children, held a "Teach and Tell" on mental retardation. Conducted in the basement of Veteran's Memorial Auditorium, the event included information sessions for the benefit of the general public and carnival booths constructed and operated by fraternity and sorority members for the enter-

tainment of mentally retarded children. During the 1971 Greek Week, the Greek Excellence Trophy became the Greek Involvement Trophy.

1972

"YOU CAN'T HAVE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER"

The theme of the 1972 Greek Week—ecology—was best explained through its logo: the earth and an ecology symbol. Dr. Wilbur Miller, president of Drake University, spoke at the fraternity-sorority luncheon. A city-wide paper drive was undertaken as the service project, and the week included such traditional events as Sweetheart Sing, the Greek Week dance, and exchange dinners.

1973

"RECRUITMENT WEEK: WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN"

Utilizing a theme taken from a popular song by the group Chicago, Recruitment Week consisted of a number of events co-sponsored by the Greek Week Committee and Residence Hall Association. Over 100 high school seniors were exposed to an informal look at college life at the beginning of the week; activities included an on-campus rock concert, Sweetheart Sing, the Drake-Lamar football game, and a semi-formal dinner. Dr. Ralph Wagoner, assistant to the president at Drake University, spoke at the fraternity-sorority luncheon, where new members of Gamma Gamma were announced at the affair for the first time.

1974

"WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER"

The theme of the 1974 Greek Week was in recognition of the work performed by the United Way. In support of the United Way's services, the Greek Week committee involved the campus' fraternities and sororities in an ambitious undertaking entitled *Operation: Total Togetherness*. The operation included the taping of a half-hour television program detailing the United Way's functions, which starred Drake Greeks; the production of radio and television advertisements by Greeks, promoting the United Way; a two-hour television taping of *Operation: Total Togetherness* from Drake's Olmsted Center, which was presented on cable television; and a day-long exhibition on the United Way, which was also held at the Olmsted Center. Jack Walters, campaign chairman for the United Way, spoke at the fraternity-sorority luncheon, as did Dr. Jon Ericson, professor of speech communication at Drake University. An award was presented at the luncheon to the organization which

had constructed the most informative booth for the Olmsted exhibition.

1975

"IF YOU COULD SEE US NOW"

The 1975 Greek Week emphasized public television; nightly for one week, fraternity and sorority members assisted the Iowa Educational Broadcasting Network (IEBN) with its telethon. IEBN reciprocated by televising the annual Sweetheart Sing competition. Florence Myers Wallace, a 1926 graduate of Drake University and past national president of Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity, spoke at the fraternity-sorority luncheon. For the first time in 15 years, exchange dinners were not conducted; however, a new tradition, a campus-wide blood drive, was established. An award was presented at the luncheon to the organization with the highest percentage of donating members.

1976

"IT'S GREEK TO ME"

In 1976 Greek Week dropped the practice of basing its theme upon a philanthropic or service project. John Pascuzzi, a 1967 Drake graduate, initiate of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, and director of documentaries and local live programming for the Des Moines affiliate of CBS, addressed the annual fraternity-sorority luncheon. The Voltmer Trophy, an award established in 1947 to recognize intramural athletic achievement, was awarded at the luncheon for the first time. *Project Sunnyside Up*, in which Drake Greeks sold eggs door-to-door and donated the proceeds to Camp Sunnyside, was the service project.

1977

"EVERYTHING'S COMING UP GREEK"

William Stauffer, a member of the Drake University Board of Trustees' Student Life Committee and chief executive officer of Northwestern Bell, addressed the fraternity-sorority luncheon. The Greek Week service project involved the sale of roses, with proceeds donated to the Mental Health Association.

1978

"COLOR ME GREEK"

Mary Louise Smith, national Republican committee woman for the State of Iowa and past national chairwoman for the Republican Party, spoke at the fraternity-sorority luncheon. The range of programming during the 1978 Greek Week was the most extensive that had been undertaken in a number of years and included a non-denominational church service, street painting competition, faculty-staff reception, an all-Greek potluck dessert picnic, car rally, the third-annual

blood drive, beer ball, and "Bud Night," which, according to publicity, was a street party consisting of "free beer, food, an assortment of athletic and not-so-athletic events, plus a disc jockey," as well as a guest appearance by the Bud Man himself. A fund raising project entitled *Your Deposit, Their Return* involved the collection of empty refundable bottles, the money from which was presented to the Prescribed Activities Center. There was no presentation of the Greek Involvement Awards during the 1978 Greek Week; instead, recognition was given for outstanding community service and fund raising efforts.

1979

"IT ALL STARTED WITH THE GREEKS"

The Greek Week of 1979 marked the first year since the event's establishment that there was no fraternity-sorority luncheon, and consequently no guest speaker. Instead, a modest awards ceremony was held in the Olmsted Center, which included recognition of the winners of the first Greek Week banner contest. A volleyball marathon was held with pledges contributing to the United States Olympic Committee, along with the proceeds from Sweetheart Sing.

1980

"TAKIN' IT TO THE STREET"

The week's theme, taken from a recording by the Doobie Brothers of the same name, referred to Drake's fraternity row on 34th Street. Sheree L. Clark, the recently appointed coordinator of Greek life at Drake University, spoke before the fraternity-sorority luncheon. Proceeds from the Sweetheart Sing were donated to the Des Moines Children's Zoo, as were pledges collected from a 10-mile walkathon, which extended from campus to the zoo. New activities were added to the week's events, including a Greek talent show, a screening of *Animal House*, a frisbee golf/volleyball tournament, and a partial revival of ID Day where fraternity and sorority members wore Greek-letter sportswear to class. A street party and a banner contest were also held.

1981

"CATCH THAT GREEK SPIRIT"

Dr. Lloyd Stjernberg, professor of education at Drake University, addressed the fraternity-sorority luncheon. Earlier in the week Dr. Ed King, dean of men at Bradley University who had been a guest speaker at the 1968 Greek Week, spoke on "The Secret Thoughts of Ritual." A new trophy was presented at the annual luncheon; named the Sheree L. Clark Award, the recognition was

given to the organization with the highest level of Greek Week participation. A non-denominational church service and exchange dinners, which had not been part of the week's activities for some time, were reinstated. The banner contest, which had enjoyed only modest popularity, was dropped from the schedule of events and was replaced by a "woodsie" held at Clearwater Beach. During the week there were no formal service projects as such, but the proceeds from Sweetheart Sing were used to create two \$500 Drake University scholarships.

1982

"GREEK: MORE THAN A WEEK"

Dr. Patsy Sampson, dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Drake University, spoke at a fraternity-sorority awards reception. The luncheon which had been part of Greek Week for 30 years was superseded by a more informal and economical reception, which did however include hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The Order of Athena, a Greek register of scholastic honor, was created, with those individuals receiving a 3.7 grade point average or above for the prior semester recognized at the reception. The reception also witnessed the naming of the first members of the Order of Omega, with which the Greek honorary Gamma Gamma had recently affiliated. The former administration and planning of all events by the Greek Week Committee was assumed by the Greek Programming Council, a body established in 1982 to provide year-around educational and social programming for Drake's fraternities and sororities. A non-denominational religious service, consisting of a candlelight ceremony on the Old Main lawn, was held. The woodsie was repeated as an event, while the exchange dinners were not. The movie *Fraternity Row* was screened, and was followed by a discussion on hazing. The service project involved the raking of leaves at the Ramsey Memorial Home, and proceeds from Sweetheart Sing were presented to the Drake Archives of Greek Achievement (DAGA) to facilitate its purchase of a display case to house a collection of badges from campus fraternities and sororities.

1983

"THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF GREEKS"

Dr. Jon Ericson, a Drake University professor who first addressed Greek Week in 1974, spoke at the fraternity-sorority awards reception. Also returning to Drake's Greek Week was Dr. Ed King, who again delivered a talk on "The Secret Thoughts of a Ritual." The

week's theme was carried out with the assistance of Disney characters; several Disney films were shown at a "walk-in drive-in" on 34th Street, and Sweetheart Sing was entitled *A Salute to Disney*. Proceeds from the Sweetheart Sing were donated to the Kids With a Wish Foundation, an organization

which grants terminally-ill children their "special wish." A new event for Greek Week was Greek Day at Adventureland amusement park. A number of more traditional events comprised the balance of the week's activities, including the ninth annual blood drive and the fifth annual street party.

¹Lasher, a member of Theta Chi Fraternity who edited its magazine for 39 years, had been "impressed by the friendly spirit and helpful attitude being generated among fraternities at the National Interfraternity Conference," and developed the Greek Week concept through a "conviction that the need for such cooperation was on the campus as well as among national leaders." John Robson, ed., *Baird's Manual of American College Fraternities*, bicentennial ed. (Menasha, Wisconsin: Baird's Manual Foundation, 1977), p. 29.

²"The Drake Times-Delphic," March 6, 1952.

³Id.

⁴Zerman became executive secretary of Phi Gamma Delta in 1959.

⁵Christine Y. Conaway, dean of women at Ohio State University, was originally scheduled to speak.

⁶The king and queen, who were presented with the task of "ruling over" Greek Week, were crowned at the convocation marking the beginning of the week's festivities or during the intermission of Sweetheart Sing. The royalty was chosen from a pool of candidates representing each fraternity and sorority; selection committees were typically composed of the Greek Week chairmen, Drake faculty, local merchants and celebrities, and occasionally fraternity leaders from other campuses. In 1964 the standards used in judging the candidates and the respective weight given to each were:

1. Forty percent on contributions to the Greek system through activities in their individual houses and organizations such as the Panhellenic Council and the Interfraternity Council;

2. 35 percent on contributions to the university through activities on campus;

3. 20 percent on scholastic achievement;

4. 5 percent on poise, appearance, and personality.

The tradition apparently came to be viewed as an elitist and outdated practice and was abandoned in 1972.

Drake's Greek Week kings and queens included:

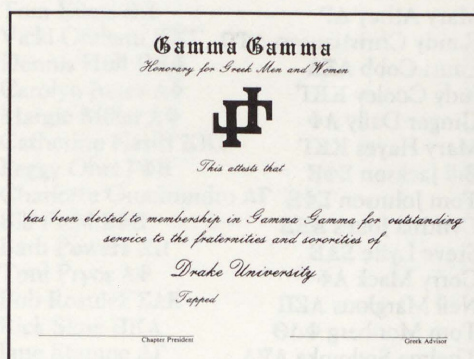
1960	Mike Myers	AEII	Sue Tyler	ΔΓ
1961	Todd Hines	ΣΦΕ	Kathy Owens	KKΓ
1962	(tie) Ron Olson	ΣΦΕ	Carol Tokosh	KAΘ
	Ron Lachner	ATΩ		
1963	Bill Fairbank	ΣAE	Twink Harrison	ΔΓ
1964	Gary Macek	ΣAE	Linda Biggs	KAΘ
1965	Nick Ritcher	ΣΦΕ	Joan Christensen	ΔΓ
1966	Doug Bauer	ΣΦΕ	Karen Vegors	XΩ
1967	Jim Fisher	ΣAE	Mary Athey	ΔΓ
1968	Bob Means	AEII	Barbara Powers	XΩ
1969	Bob Young	ΦΔΘ	Laurie Triggs	XΩ
1970	Dean Brooks	ΣAE	Barbara Lewis	ΔΓ
1971	Bob Tucker	AEII	Sue Anliker	KAΘ

⁷From 1969-71, Greek Weekend was revived. However, the event was limited to exchange dinners, charity fundraisers, and "Operation Greek City," a program in which approximately 60 Drake fraternity and sorority members were paired for one day with city officials in an attempt to improve relations between the university and local government, as well as to acquaint students with the daily operations of the city.

⁸The band was paid \$1750 for its Drake performance.

Appendix IV (B)

Order of Omega/ Gamma Gamma



The National Order of Omega was founded at the University of Miami on April 14, 1959. It is presently represented by chapters on over 80 campuses, including Delta Iota at Drake University, which was chartered on March 15, 1982.

For an 18-year period prior to the establishment of the Order of Omega at Drake University, outstanding fraternity men and women were recognized through membership in Gamma Gamma. Gamma Gamma was the outgrowth of Honor Greek, a recognition society organized in 1957 at Iowa State College (now University). The purpose of Honor Greek was to acknowledge and encourage outstanding participation by fraternity members in campus life; its membership was limited to one percent of the Greek undergraduate population and to upperclassmen. A provision was made for the selection of up to four honorary members each year.

Although it is not known whether Honor Greek developed an initiation ceremony, the society did adopt several traditions. A design consisting of two Gammas—one reversed, inverted, and superimposed upon the other—was adopted as a tapping symbol; the symbol was placed at the entrance of a chapter house immediately preceeding Greek Week to indicate that a member of the organization was to be inducted into the society. Honor Greek also utilized white hoods, which were emblazoned with the tapping

symbol; these hoods were placed over the heads of new members (often from behind and without the knowledge of the individual) during the opening ceremonies of Greek Week.

In 1960 Honor Greek became Gamma Gamma, adopting its tapping symbol as its name. Several years later the membership quota was raised from one percent to two percent of the Greek population. At approximately the same point in time Gamma Gamma adopted the long-range goal of becoming a national Greek honorary. Originally the member schools of the Big Eight and Big Ten conferences were targeted for extension, but it was at Drake University that a second chapter was established in the fall of 1964.

Gamma Gamma at Drake University adopted the constitution of the Iowa State chapter, and functioned solely as an honor society. New members were either tapped at the convocation opening Greek Week, or at the awards banquet marking its conclusion; in either case the white hoods as originally used by Honor Greek were not utilized. An initiation dinner which included the election of officers for the organization was generally held later in the fall semester. The members from the junior class would then perpetuate Gamma Gamma through the selection of new members during the following school year.

Including 22 honorary members, the Drake chapter of Gamma Gamma initiated 329 individuals from 1964-1981. The highest number of initiates in one year was 28 (1970); the fewest was 10 (1980).

The goal of Gamma Gamma to become a national honor society went largely unfulfilled. Although additional chapters are known to have been established at Nebraska, Illinois, Kansas State, Oklahoma, Delaware, Old Dominion, and James Madison, it appears that with the passage of time Gamma Gamma's membership at Iowa State University became disinterested with the prospect of further extension. Instead, the

Order of Omega, an organization almost identical to Gamma Gamma, rapidly expanded to campuses across the country.

In 1982 the Iowa State chapter of Gamma Gamma opted to become affiliated with the Order of Omega. Soonthereafter the Drake chapter followed its example; at the February 5, 1982, annual initiation banquet of Gamma Gamma, its membership unanimously endorsed a petition to become a part of the Order of Omega. The national organization granted a charter to Drake University on March 15, 1982.

A complete list of the initiates of Gamma Gamma and the Order of Omega at Drake University is as follows:

GAMMA GAMMA Charter Members

1964

Tom Banks $\Phi\Delta\Theta$
Linda Biggs $\text{KA}\Theta$
Joan Christiansen $\Delta\Gamma$
Virginia Cook $\text{KA}\Theta$
Jim Curtin ΠKA
Sandra Franke $\text{KA}\Theta$
Bob Hill $\text{AT}\Omega$
Mary Jane Ingram $\text{A}\Sigma\Delta$
David Litwack $\text{AE}\Pi$
Gary Macek ΣAE
Lynn McKenzie ΔZ
Mary Mielenz $\text{KA}\Theta$
Nancy Rees $\Delta\Gamma$
Nick Ritcher $\Sigma\Phi\text{E}$
Doug Schmidt $\text{AT}\Omega$
Syd Timmins $\text{KK}\Gamma$

1965

Doug Bauer $\Sigma\Phi\text{E}$
John Dvorak ΘX
Steve Finkel ΠKA
Larry Fish $\text{AE}\Pi$
Liz Hawke $\text{KA}\Theta$
Pam Hoffman $\text{KK}\Gamma$
Mary Jane Johnston ΔZ
Marty Lieberman $\text{KK}\Gamma$
Penne Longhbliler $\text{KK}\Gamma$
Sue Ness $\Delta\Gamma$
Pam Papendick $\text{A}\Phi$
Jody Peterson ΔZ
Maureen Richter $\text{AE}\Phi$
Jill Sands $\Delta\Gamma$
Bob Stone $\Phi\Delta\Theta$
Helen Tuntland $\text{A}\Phi$
Karen Vegors $\text{X}\Omega$

Honorary members:

Dr. Arthur Casebeer,
dean of students,
Drake University (ΣN)

Mrs. Marjorie J. Cunningham,
assistant dean of students,
Drake University ($\text{KA}\Theta$)

1966

Mary Athey $\Delta\Gamma$
Randy Christiansen $\text{AT}\Omega$
Lauri Cobb $\text{A}\Sigma\Delta$
Judy Cooley $\text{KK}\Gamma$
Ginger Daily $\text{A}\Phi$
Mary Hayes $\text{KK}\Gamma$
Bill Jackson $\Sigma\Phi\text{E}$
Tom Johnson $\Sigma\Phi\text{E}$
Cynthia Jones $\text{A}\Sigma\Delta$
Steve Lytle ΣAE
Corry Mack $\text{A}\Phi$
Neil Marglous $\text{AE}\Pi$
Tom Monberg $\Phi\Delta\Theta$
Thelma Sodomka $\text{A}\Sigma\Delta$
Mike Ullman ΘX
Barb Wecker $\text{KK}\Gamma$
Ann Wilson $\text{A}\Phi$

Honorary members:

Bess Hamm,
assoc. professor of education,
Drake University

Dr. Lewis McNurlen,
professor of sociology,
Drake University ($\text{AT}\Omega$)

1967

Jim Antes $\Pi\text{K}\Phi$
Barb Black $\Delta\Gamma$
Julie Cerio $\text{A}\Phi$
Ginger Cogis $\Delta\Gamma$
Jim Fisher ΣAE
Bill Forbrich $\Phi\Delta\Theta$
Terry Hock $\text{A}\Phi$
Julie Janssen $\Delta\Gamma$
John Jones ΠKA
Sue Karloff $\text{AE}\Phi$
Kay Keny $\text{KK}\Gamma$
Nancy Koberstein $\text{KA}\Theta$
Dave Lien $\text{AT}\Omega$
Mike Mason ΣAE
Bob Means $\text{AE}\Pi$
Gary Medd ΣAE
Trish Moyes $\Delta\Gamma$
Jim Parish $\Phi\Delta\Theta$

Tom Pfenning TKE
 Tom Santefort TKE
 Nancy Shrider XΩ
 Cathy Thomson ΔZ
 Gary Westwater ΘX
 Vicky White KKG

1968

Paul Brooks ΦΔΘ
 Maurice Coffey KAΨ
 Sherry Doane AΦ
 Tom Eilers ΘX
 Vicki Graham KKG
 Dennis Hult ΠKΦ
 Carolyn Jones AΦ
 Margie Millar AΦ
 Catherine Nasiff KKG
 Peggy Ohrt ΓΦB
 Charlotte Omohundro ΔΓ
 Bill Piehl ΣΦE
 Barb Powers XΩ
 Toni Pryor AΦ
 Bob Rosulek ΣAE
 Rick Sline ΠKA
 Jane Stampe ΔΓ
 Jill Taft AΦ
 Laurie Triggs XΩ
 Bob Young ΦΔΘ
 Connie Youngberg KAΘ

Honorary Members:

Dr. Hoke Smith
 assistant to the president,
 Drake University (TKE)

Sally Andrus Tunncliffe,
 president,
 Chi Omega House Corporation

1969

Jan Ahlman AΦ
 Carol Baum ΓΦB
 Jean Bennett KAΘ
 Dean Brooks ΣAE
 Barb Brown XΩ
 Kathy Buster AΦ
 Dennis Cathcart ΦΔΘ
 Marge Gaedeke KKG
 Bob Hoff ΦΔΘ
 Cliff Johnson KAΨ
 Donna Kesinger AΦ
 Sue Lang ΔΓ
 Maury Levitt ΠKA
 Barb Lewis ΔΓ
 Karen Naple XΩ
 John Neubauer ΠKA
 Rich Pieper ΣΦE
 James Tredway ΣAE
 Mike Vavrus ΦΔΘ

Harry Winegar ΠKΦ
 Charlyne Wood AEΔ
 Penny Zimmerman ΠKA

1970

Diane Anagnos ΔΓ
 Sue Anliker KAΘ
 Bob Branson ΦΔΘ
 Jo Ann Dove ΔΓ
 Bobbe Hansen KAΘ
 Dean Hatch ΘX
 Jack Hatch ΣAE
 Bill Johnson ΘX
 Jan Keny KKG
 Martha Liebl KKG
 Kim Meadows ΠKΦ
 Jan Miller ΔZ
 Jan Naylor ΔZ
 Barry Petrowsky ΦΔΘ
 Sue Porter ΔZ
 Bob Ransen ΦΔΘ
 Ron Roark ΠKA
 Chuck Schoffner ΠKΦ
 Gary Shaffer TKE
 Phil Snyder ΣΦE
 Dolores Sooy XΩ
 Tom Spero AEΠ
 Tim Tyler ΘX
 Carol Vail AΦ
 Ken Vegors ΣAE
 Marilyn Vegors AEΔ
 Brian Wolff ΣΦE

Honorary Members:

Don Adams,
 vice president, student life,
 Drake University (ΣTG)

Stephen Schodde
 director, student development services
 Drake University

1971

Gayle Cunningham AΦ
 Mary Grant KAΘ
 Tom Hart ΠKA
 Peggy Hause KAΘ
 Jack Hauser AEΠ
 Julie Hughes AΦ
 Bob Johnson ΠKΦ
 Larry Knecht ΦΔΘ
 Chris Lind AΦ
 Dave Paul ATΩ
 Nancy Robbins XΩ
 Becki Roth XΩ
 Rick Sapp ΣAE
 Connie Siegfried AΦ
 Jeff Singer AEΠ
 Sally Stalnaker XΩ

Order of Omega/Gamma Gamma

Bob Tucker AEP
 Bob Turek ΣAE
 Nancy Welsh KKT
 Julie Zahn ΔΓ

1972

Jim Benda ΠKΦ
 Jim Blum ΘX
 Kathy Chandler KAΘ
 Judy Franklin KKT
 Kathryn Graf KKT
 Bob Luxen ΣAE
 Margy McCay AΣΔ
 Pat Naylor KAΘ
 Kathy Platt XΩ
 Sue Rose KKT
 Greg Rothnem ΦΔΘ
 Carole Scheele AΦ
 Lawrence Schneider AEP
 Kim Stecher ΔΓ
 John Torbert ΠKΦ
 Jim Von der Heydt ΠKΦ
 Paul Wallace ΦΔΘ
 Penny Weishaar AΣΔ
 M. Suzanne Widegren XΩ

1973

Cathy Gilbert KAΘ
 Cindy Gill KKT
 Jan Hughes AΦ
 Brad Kiick ΠKΦ
 Nancy Loshkajian ΓΦB
 Juliann Mushro AΣΔ
 Mike Neary ΠKΦ
 Jeff Peters AEP
 Gary Rosberg ΦΔΘ
 Dean Rowland ΠKΦ
 John Spooner ΦΔΘ
 Larry Stein AEP
 Sharman Stolz AΦ
 Mary Welgos XΩ
 Ruth Wright XΩ

1974

Gretchen Bodum KAΘ
 Carl Brandt ΣAE
 Charlie Cassel ΣAE
 Mary Kay Collins ΓΦB
 Deborah Cross KAΘ
 Ken Johnsen ΣAE
 Gem Meyer ΠKΦ
 Peter Mitchell ΠKΦ
 Patrick Neary ΠKΦ
 Jamie Porter AΦ
 Ruth Richardson AΦ
 Charlotte Russell AΦ
 Alan Schramm AEP
 William Sharp ATΩ

Scott Slabotsky AEP
 Debbie Worley KAΘ
 Rick Young ΦΔΘ

Honorary Members:

Wilbur C. Miller,
 president,
 Drake University (ATΩ)

Nancy Heatherington Dorff
 director, alumni relations,
 Drake University (ΔΓ)

1975

Jeff Armstrong ΠKΦ
 Debra Bennett KAΘ
 Jim Carroll ΠKΦ
 Neenah A. Ellis AΦ
 Marc Franson ΣAE
 Timothy Harrington ΣAE
 Tom Henderson ΣAE
 Todd Janus ΠKΦ
 Robert MacDonald AEP
 Joanne Mauloff AΦ
 Cindy Mills AΣΔ
 Cindy Nightingale ΓΦB
 John Pappas ΦΔΘ
 Craig Perrinjaquet ΦΔΘ
 Mark Plavac ΣAE
 Bill Shepard ΠKΦ
 Jim Van Ginkel ATΩ
 Kerry Whitesell KKT

Honorary Members:

Bob Brodie,
 director, student activities,
 Drake University (ΘX)

Wayne Bryan,
 Drake Campus Ministries

Art Tatge,
 fraternity advisor,
 Drake University (ΣN)

1976

Vicki Asprooth ΓΦB
 Christy Callahan AΦ
 Debbie Doidge XΩ
 Tom Graber ΘX
 John Hirth ΠKA
 Steve Jacobs ΦΔΘ
 Dave Kimball ΣAE
 Jeff Miller ΠKΦ
 Barb Peterson AΦ
 Peggy Przyblski KKT
 Betsy Sanderson XΩ
 Kerry Smith ΣAE
 Sue Watt ΓΦB

Honorary Member:

Florence Myers Wallace,
past national president,
Kappa Kappa Gamma

1977

Anne Delger XΩ
Deb Ganzel XΩ
Derek Guyton ΘX
Mike Higgins ΣAE
Linda Huevelmann ΔZ
Tom Milani ATΩ
John Mitchell ΣAE
Joel Mosher ΠKΦ
Geri Napuck ΔΓ
Ron Raskin ΠKΦ
Dudley Ryan ΦΔΘ
Eric Turner ΦΔΘ
Bob Uhlar ΘX
Jo Yochum AΦ

Honorary Members:

Colleen Devine,
secretary,
Student Activities Center,
Drake University

Marian Garner,
secretary, Office of Greek Affairs,
Drake University

Bob Marks,
chapter advisor,
Alpha Epsilon Pi

Bill Paquette,
director, career planning and placement,
Drake University

1978

Patty Burroughs XΩ
Mark Chaplick ΠKΦ
Jeannine Fausek AΦ
Evan Kline ΠKΦ
Al Kopec ΘX
Julie Lutz ΓΦB
Dave Miles ΣAE
Jocelyn Phillips ΓΦB
J. Peter Pohl ΦΔΘ
Kurt Svendsen ΦΔΘ
Scott Yochum ΠKA
Gary Zimmerman ΠKΦ
Jan Zukowski XΩ

Honorary Members:

Rich Coates,
director of intramurals,
Drake University

Tom Tronick

associate director, housing office,
Drake University (ΣX)

1979

Joe Aiello ΘX
Chuck Day ΣAE
Julie Esther KKT
Bruce Funk ΣX
Al Gamis ΠKΦ
Brenda Ganzel KKT
Steve Gatton ΘX
Karen Hohenstein ΓΦB
Tammy Jensen XΩ
Dan Litchfield TKE
Max Miller ΦΔΘ
Dan Neiden AEP
Tammy Perkins ΓΦB
Craig Sherman AEP

1980

Peter Barber ΦΔΘ
Ned Burmeister ΣAE
Mary Ellen Gautchier ΓΦB
Kristine Kay Groh KKT
Mike Henry ΘX
Dave Higgins ΦΔΘ
Lynden Lyman TKE
Tom Rossley ΘX
Tom Stafslie ΦΔΘ
Holly Wilson KKT

1981

Peggy Anderson XΩ
Fran Beale ΓΦB
Renn Gade ΣAE
Doug Hagerman ΘX
Mike Long ΘX
Carri Meilahn KKT
Lisa Norbury KAΘ
Cathy Rooney KAΘ
Janet Rowlands ΓΦB
Dave Schulte ΘX
Allison Sparks KKT

Honorary Member:

Sheree L. Clark,
coordinator of Greek life,
Drake University (AΦ)

ORDER OF OMEGA Charter Members

Spring 1982

Peggy Anderson XΩ
Fran Beale ΓΦB

Order of Omega/Gamma Gamma

Renn Gade ΣAE
Doug Hagerman ΘX
Mike Long ΘX
Carri Meilahn KKT
Lisa Norbury KAΘ
Cathy Rooney KAΘ
Janet Rowlands ΓΦB
Dave Schulte ΘX
Allison Sparks KKT

Honorary Members:

Sheree Clark (AΦ)
Lynden Lyman (TKE)

Fall 1982

Matt Crowl ΘX

Dave Dykstra ΠKA
Eric Haussman ΣAE
Kerry Hoggard ΓΦB
Mark Kilian ΣX
Cathy LaFave ΔΓ
Betsy Rands KKT
Dale Ray ΣX
Sheryl L. Shaffer KAΘ

1983

Garth Adams ΘX
Shelly Coletta AΦ
Athena Golianis KAΘ
Julie McDowell KAΘ
Tom W. Olive ΘX
Lynn Rankin XΩ

Appendix IV (C)

Sweetheart Sing

For as long as can be remembered, a Sweetheart Sing victory has been considered one of the highest accomplishments a fraternity or sorority could achieve. While a number of "traditions" have come and gone within the Drake Greek community, for nearly half a century the annual Sweetheart Sing competition has remained an honored and significant event.

The first "Valentine Sweetheart Sing" was held on Wednesday, February 13, 1935. Conducted in the chapel of the University Christian Church—a location which would repeatedly host the event over the next two decades—the competition was organized by the Women's Self-Governing Association (WSGA), a body consisting of the leaders of campus organizations with female memberships. Each of Drake's fraternities and sororities participated in the first sing; Delta Gamma, "dressed in blue robes and wearing the traditional Delta Gamma rose,"¹ was chosen as the winner of the sorority division, while Alpha Tau Omega was selected as the outstanding ensemble among the fraternity competitors. Competing organizations were judged on the basis of tone, expression, balance, diction, and appearance. Each group was to be composed of a minimum of 12 members, and was to perform two selections: a fraternity sweetheart song, and a song of the organization's choice. Solos were prohibited, as was the use of any instrumental accompaniment.

A great amount of controversy surrounded the Sweetheart Sing of 1936. Phi Mu Alpha—a professional music society—was selected as the winner of the fraternity division. The WSGA, which had changed its name to the Women's League, defended the right of such groups to compete in the sing, resulting oddly enough in Drake's varsity athletes asserting that a rule prohibiting their participation in intramural sporting events should similarly prevent professional music fraternities and sororities from taking part in Sweetheart Sing. *The Drake Times-Delphic*, in a series of editorials, agreed with the ath-

letes, and prior to the 1937 sing the Women's League made professional music groups ineligible to compete.²

Following the outbreak of World War II, the competition was temporarily curtailed due to the inactivity of most fraternity chapters and a general limitation on collegiate wartime activities. During the years 1943-45 the Women's League organized a less-grandiose and non-competitive "Songfest." Conducted in the administration lounge of Old Main, the Songfests featured performances by Drake's sororities, as well as the men of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

By the spring of 1945 a significant number of fraternity men had returned to Drake University, and most limitations on wartime activities had been suspended. In view of these facts a vast majority of the campus Greek population felt that Sweetheart Sing should be revived. The Women's League disagreed, having come to prefer the non-competitive Songfest. The Women's Panhellenic Council responded by hosting its own version of Sweetheart Sing on March 17, 1945; in subsequent years the Women's League was in no way involved with the competition.

The Sweetheart Sings following the conclusion of World War II were again held in the University Christian Church, and included performances by Varsity Independents, a social organization composed of unaffiliated women. During this period phonograph records of the sing were produced and sold. Beginning in 1952 the competition was held at a number of locations including Plymouth Congregational Church, Grace Methodist Church, Roosevelt High School, North High School, Callanan Junior High School, Hoyt Sherman Place, and the Old Main auditorium.

It was originally intended that Sweetheart Sing be held on the Monday nearest to Valentine's Day; although this sentiment had not always been strictly adhered to, the establishment of Greek Weekend in the spring of 1952 resulted in the competition being held later in the semester. The initiation of Greek

Sweetheart Sing

Weekend also placed the responsibility for the coordination of the competition in a committee composed of fraternity and sorority members.

During the 1950s a complex set of rules regarding Sweetheart Sing performances evolved. Typical are the rules from the 1956 competition:

Groups in the contest are limited to 50 participants and must limit their presentation to two songs, must observe a ten-minute time limit, including time for walking to and from the stage, must have no instrumental accompaniment, and all coaching of songs must be done by members of the group participating in the contest. Girls must wear formals and men cannot wear tuxes.

The same period saw one or more of the participating groups being made responsible for constructing stage decorations for use during the performances.

In 1957 Greek Weekend was expanded to Greek Week; three years later it was determined that it would be more suitable to move the activities from the spring to the fall semester. This decision was apparently made following the 1960 spring Greek Week as there were two Greek Weeks (and two sing competitions) during the year. Since that time the staging of Sweetheart Sing has generally marked the commencement of Greek Week.

Students during the late 1960s undertook an examination of established traditions throughout the university, which resulted in relaxing many of the customary rules of Sweetheart Sing. In 1968 costumes and musical instruments were first permitted. The rigid stances which had marked earlier signs soon gave way to creative choreography. Sweetheart songs became the exception rather than the rule,³ with participants generally performing three or more songs from the same composer, soundtrack, or theme, or in conformance with a theme adopted for Sweetheart Sing.

In 1980 the competition appeared to have finally located a permanent location for its performances in the Harmon Fine Arts Center, where Sweetheart Sing has been conducted since.

Sweetheart Sing winners through the years are as follows:

1935	..... ΔΓ|ΑΤΩ
1936	..... ΔΓ|ΦΜΑ
1937	..... ΚΑΘ|ΑΤΩ
1938	..... ΚΑΘ|ΑΤΩ
1939	..... ΚΚΓ|ΑΤΩ
1940	..... ΚΑΘ|ΑΤΩ
1941	..... ΚΑΘ|ΑΤΩ
1942	..... ΔΓ|ΣΑΕ
1943	..... Not held
1944	..... Not held
1945	..... ΚΑΘ|ΣΑΕ



The evolution of Sweetheart Sing: clockwise, from upper left, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 1947; Kappa Alpha Theta, 1962; Theta Chi, 1979; Delta Gamma, 1980.

1946	.....	XΩ|ΣAE
1947	.....	KAΘ|ΣAE
1948	.....	ΔZ|ΣAE
1949	.....	AEΔ|ΣAE
1950	.....	ΔΓ|ΣAE
1951	.....	XΩ|ΣAE
1952	.....	ΣAE ⁴
1953	.....	ΣAE ⁴
1954	.....	ΔΓ|ΣAE
1955	.....	KKΓ|ΣAE
1956	.....	KKΓ|ΣAE
1957	.....	ΔΓ|ΣAE
1958	.....	KKΓ|ΣAE
1959	.....	XΩ|ATΩ
1960	.....	KKΓ|ΣΦE-AΦ|ΣAE
1961	.....	ΔΓ|ATΩ
1962	.....	AEΔ|TKE ⁵
1963	.....	AEΔ|TKE
1964	.....	AEΔ|TKE ⁶

1965	.....	AEΔ|ATΩ
1966	.....	AEΔ|ΠKA
1967	.....	ΓΦB|ΠKA
1968	.....	AΦ|ΠKA
1969	.....	ΓΦB|ΦΔΘ
1970	.....	XΩ|ΣAE
1971	.....	XΩ|ΠKA
1972	.....	KAΘ|ΠKΦ
1973	.....	ΓΦB|ΦΔΘ
1974	.....	ΔΓ|ΦΔΘ
1975	.....	ΔΓ|ΠKΦ ⁷
1976	.....	KKΓ|ΦΔΘ ⁸
1977	.....	ΔΓ|ΣAE
1978	.....	ΔΓ|ΦΔΘ
1979	.....	KKΓ|ΦΔΘ
1980	.....	KKΓ|ΦΔΘ
1981	.....	XΩ|ΣX
1982	.....	KAΘ|ΣX
1983	.....	ΔΓ|ΣAE

¹"The Drake Times-Delphic," February 14, 1935.

²Phi Mu Alpha, along with the professional music sororities Sigma Alpha Iota and Mu Phi Epsilon, nonetheless performed in Sweetheart Sings throughout the 1940s and 1950s on a non-competitive basis.

³The requirement of performing at least one sweetheart song was reinstated in 1982.

⁴For reasons which remain unclear sororities did not compete for honors in the Sweetheart Sings of 1952-53.

⁵In 1962 all participating organizations joined at the end of the competition to sing the Drake Alma Mater.

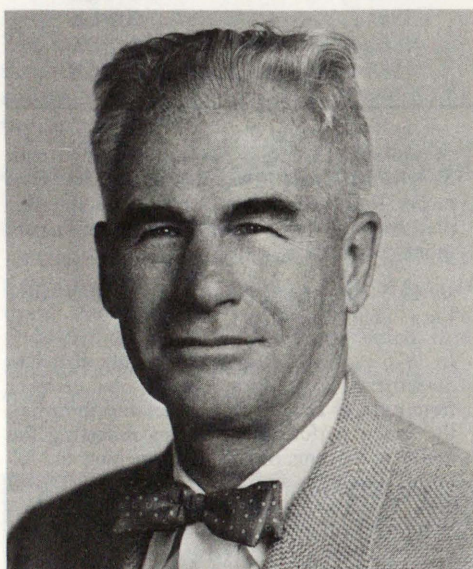
⁶In 1964 Kappa Alpha Psi was presented with Sweetheart Sing's new entry award. Six years earlier Kappa Alpha Psi had become the first predominately black organization to participate in the competition.

⁷In 1975 Sweetheart Sing was broadcast over Iowa Public Television.

⁸In 1976 an "All-Greek Act" was introduced to Sweetheart Sing. Composed of one member from each of Drake's fraternities and sororities, the group performed selections reflecting the theme of the sing, usually at its opening and following the intermission. The All-Greek act was discontinued in 1982.

Appendix IV (D)

The Voltmer Trophy For Interfraternity Athletics



The man behind the trophy: Dr. Edward F. Voltmer, Drake's director of physical education from 1946-64.

The specific origins of a special recognition for athletic supremacy among fraternities is unknown. Sometime during the 1920s the Sports Cup appeared, although its presentation was somewhat erratic. Later, during the 1930s and up until the outbreak of World War II, the award was all but the exclusive property of the Drake local fraternity Chi Delta.

In August 1946 Dr. Edward F. Voltmer was appointed head of the Physical Education Section of the Department of Athletics and Physical Education of Drake University.¹ Shortly after acquiring the position Voltmer, who oversaw intramural competition between fraternities, presented the Interfraternity Council with a traveling trophy to be presented to the outstanding fraternity competitor.² This trophy became subsequently known as *The Voltmer*.

The Voltmer Trophy has been presented as follows:

1947	ΣAE	1966	ATΩ
1948	TKE	1967	ΣAE
1949	TKE	1968	unknown
1950	ATΩ	1969	ΠKA
1951	ATΩ	1970	ATΩ
1952	ATΩ	1971	ΣΦE
1953	ATΩ	1972	ΣΦE
1954	ΣAE	1973	ΣAE
1955	ΣAE	1974	ΣAE
1956	ΣAE	1975	ΣAE
1957	ΣΦE	1976	ΣAE
1958	ATΩ	1977	ΣAE
1959	ΣAE	1978	ΣAE
1960	ΣΦE	1979	ΣAE
1961	ATΩ	1980	ΣΦE
1962	ATΩ	1981	ΠKA
1963	ΣAE	1982	ΠKA
1964	ΣAE	1983	ΠKA
1965	ΣAE		

¹Voltmer's daughter Evelyn became a member of the Drake chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta, while her younger sister Marjory was initiated into Alpha Xi Delta.

²The original trophy has long since vanished.

Replacements became such popular targets of fraternity pranks that on October 3, 1980 the Drake Interfraternity Council unanimously voted to make "The winners of any traveling trophy . . . financially responsible for the award for the year in which they hold it."

Appendix V

Fraternity Membership Statistics, 1950-71

Drake University Interfraternity Council Membership Statistics, 1950-1971

Source: Dean of Students' Office, Fraternity Scholarship Reports (reflecting regular, dues-paying membership, pledges and initiated members)

	s'50	f'50	s'51	f'51	s'52	f'52	s'53	f'53	s'54	f'54	s'55	f'55	s'56	f'56	s'57	f'57	s'58	f'58	s'59	f'59	s'60	f'60
ΑΕΠ	64	63	66	45	41	46	54	56	58	49	51	59	52	58	57	52	50	43	40	41	38	53
ΑΤΩ	104	93	93	99	95	85	86	103	95	74	70	80	83	79	77	70	69	72	71	82	72	80
ΠΚΑ	35	24	26	23	25	20	21	23	28	35	43	46	44	37	35	32	31	30	28	28	28	29
ΠΚΦ	50	42	26	33	29	22	26	36	29	30	27	32	29	29	26	25	20	27	23	17	18	26
ΣΑΕ	106	79	79	60	67	61	66	72	73	89	84	83	82	68	78	68	70	87	72	74	69	77
ΣΦΕ	83	65	58	67	62	70	61	48	53	53	60	73	75	89	85	87	74	85	84	82	77	81
ΤΚΕ	66	47	35	30	32	27	28	29	22	23	23	31	37	41	36	34	46	49	47	60	53	67
ΘΧ	41	39	27	25	20	18	24	24	20	10	26	17	21	17	22	22	23	20	22	22	24	21
ΚΑΨ	15	17	21	21	19	18	17	17	13	17	18	17	14	15	15	14	21	13	16	13	18	22
ΦΔΘ															24	20	18	23	25	31	44	36
ZBT																						
Total Affiliated Men	564	469	431	403	390	367	383	407	395	380	402	438	437	433	455	424	422	448	428	450	441	492
Average Chapter Size	62	52	47	44	43	40	42	45	44	42	44	48	48	48	46	42	42	45	43	45	44	49
% of eligible men	22	22	23	25	26	24	26	28	29	26	29	27	27	24	27	24	25	25	24	23	25	25

	s'61	f'61	s'62	f'62	s'63	f'63	s'64	f'64	s'65	f'65	s'66	f'66	s'67	f'67	s'68	f'68	s'69	f'69	s'70	f'70	s'71	f'71
ΑΕΠ	51	46	34	52	47	54	46	54	45	60	51	72	70	87	74	71	39	64	55	67	58	78
ΑΤΩ	83	83	89	75	86	80	82	95	84	101	90	85	77	83	79	64	57	71	56	62	49	36
ΠΚΑ	32	25	23	38	34	36	33	50	49	60	59	54	63	71	84	78	78	84	66	77	64	60
ΠΚΦ	28	37	34	43	40	31	29	41	35	31	21	18	18	30	37	44	38	26	29	30	32	26
ΣΑΕ	97	81	75	81	80	93	94	92	93	90	89	86	89	92	86	77	77	82	62	86	80	75
ΣΦΕ	86	70	68	(a)	69	77	69	58	56	89	71	70	77	83	76	89	77	78	60	66	64	61
ΤΚΕ	60	50	54	57	57	61	57	68	66	72	58	75	63	58	49	72	58	51	33	28	27	27
ΘΧ	21	32	35	(b)	27	35	34	31	31	44	44	44	39	36	37	36	35	30	27	23	16	13
ΚΑΨ	20	20	26	17	35	24	24	27	29	28	21	20	19	19	14	15	8	14	13	10	(c)	
ΦΔΘ	42	67	60	62	64	58	58	46	54	52	54	61	63	70	69	71	55	56	55	88	83	91
ZBT																					18	16
Total Affiliated Men	520	511	524		539	549	522	568	534	631	558	585	578	629	605	617	522	556	456	537	491	467
Average Chapter size	52	51	52		54	55	52	57	53	63	56	59	58	63	61	62	52	56	47	54	49	47
% of eligible men	28	25	23	20	27	26	26	24		25		21		23		24		22		16		

(s) Spring

(f) Fall

"Eligible Drake Men" consists of full-time male students enrolled in ten or more hours of class.

(a) Sigma Phi Epsilon was suspended as a social fraternity during the fall of 1962, and did not submit a scholarship roster.

(b) Theta Chi did not submit a scholarship roster in the fall of 1962.

(c) Kappa Alpha Psi resigned from the Interfraternity Council in 1971.

Appendix VI

Sorority Membership Statistics, 1950-71

Drake University Panhellenic Association Membership Statistics, 1950-1971
Source: Dean Of Students Office, Sorority Scholarship Reports (reflecting regular, dues-paying membership, pledges and initiated members)

	s'50	f'50	s'51	f'51	s'52	f'52	s'53	f'53	s'54	f'54	s'55	f'55	s'56	f'56	s'57	s'57	s'58	f'58	s'59	f'59	s'60	f'61
ΑΕΦ		16	19	12	22	19	22	28	30	32	30	43	36	31	29	17	12	23	24	26	21	32
ΑΦ																19	20	43	41	56	58	59
ΑΞΔ	45	44	38	36	29	31	29	38	38	49	50	48	48	50	49	55	55	53	50	57	53	52
ΧΩ	43	42	44	41	40	38	40	46	50	47	48	49	50	48	54	56	56	57	56	60	60	60
ΔΓ	50	44	43	41	36	35	36	42	38	39	43	49	49	50	48	52	52	50	54	58	60	59
ΔΖ	52	52	52	45	48	45	48	45	50	50	47	48	52	54	51	55	45	54	45	60	49	58
ΓΦΒ																						
ΚΑΘ	50	48	43	39	44	47	44	41	40	43	48	48	48	52	55	53	54	56	55	57	58	57
ΚΚΓ	43	49	48	47	44	47	44	45	47	49	46	45	44	46	51	53	51	53	56	59	59	51
ΦΜ	34	28	23	21																		
Chapter Limitation ¹	52	52	52	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	53	55	55	55	55	57	57	60	60	60
Total Affiliated Women	317	323	310	282	263	262	263	285	289	312	311	329	326	333	331	358	345	389	381	433	418	428
Average Chapter size	45	40	37	35	37	37	37	40	41	46	45	47	46	47	47	44	43	48	47	54	52	53
% Eligible Drake Women ²	44	46	48	46	45	42	46	45	47	41	42	39	42	39	42	41	42	39	41	37	38	34

	s'61	f'61	s'62	f'62	s'63	f'63	s'64	f'64	s'65	f'65 ^a	s'66	f'66	s'67	f'67	s'68	f'68	s'69	f'69	s'70	f'70	s'71	f'71
ΑΕΦ		28		23		22		28		26		22		46		41		36		32		29
ΑΦ		60		63		60		63		61		65		75		70		68		75		67
ΑΞΔ		53		53		48		47		47		69		70		67		58		57		43
ΧΩ		58		65		65		65		65		66		69		70		67		70		63
ΔΓ		55		63		60		62		62		72		66		59		62		61		65
ΔΖ		55		64		62		60		62		71		70		67		49		52		41
ΓΦΒ														56		58		56		64		47
ΚΑΘ		60		61		63		63		66		69		71		67		64		65		57
ΚΚΓ		60		65		61		64		61		70		74		71		66		67		59
ΦΜ																						
Chapter Limitation ¹		62		65		65		65		65		67		70		70		70		70		68
Total Affiliated Women		429		457		441		452		450		504		597		570		526		533		471
Average Chapter Size		53		57		55		56		56		63		66		63		58		59		52
% Eligible Drake Women ²		33		31		30		28		28		27		30		32		31		25		26

(s) Spring

(f) Fall

¹ Chapter limitation (also called "total") is the allowable size as determined by the campus Panhellenic, and includes both pledges and initiated members. The first chapter limitation system at Drake was adopted in 1939; in 1967 the current system of quota/total was introduced. Quota refers to the number of women each sorority may pledge during formal rush. It is possible for a chapter to exceed total by achieving quota.

² Eligible women are those who are enrolled full time as undergraduate students at Drake University, as reported by the Office of the Registrar.

^a In the fall of 1965 the Panhellenic Council agreed to count members who were from the city of Des Moines as half members for purposes of calculating a chapter's total membership. This practice was continued off and on until approximately 1970.

Appendix VII

National Fraternities Installed At Drake University

	Chapter	Date Installed	Date Charter Withdrawn	Campus Origin
Alpha Epsilon Pi	Alpha Deuteron	February 28, 1937	March 3, 1982	The Drake Men's Club, 1935; Alpha Epsilon colony, August 27, 1936
Alpha Phi Alpha	Alpha Nu	April 10, 1922	1949-76	(1)
Alpha Tau Omega	Delta Omicron	April 28, 1923		Kappa Lambda, February 21, 1912 ⁽²⁾
Kappa Alpha Psi	Omega	November 28, 1925		
Omega Psi Phi	Tau Eta	November 11, 1976 ⁽³⁾		
Phi Beta Delta ⁽⁴⁾	Psi	November 29, 1924	1930	Sigma Delta Phi, February 1922
Phi Delta Theta	Iowa Delta	October 28, 1961		Phi Delta Delta, January 7, 1957
Pi Kappa Alpha	Delta Omicron	February 25, 1950		The Drake University Club, January 1949; Delta Xi colony, May 16, 1949
Pi Kappa Phi	Beta Delta	April 24, 1949		The Pi Kappa Phi Club colony, December 3, 1948
Sigma Alpha Epsilon	Iowa Delta	February 5, 1921		Sigma Beta Kappa, February 21, 1910 ⁽⁵⁾
Sigma Chi	Theta Gamma	December 6, 1980		Phi Sigma Chi colony, August 1976
Sigma Nu	Beta Delta	April 15, 1891	December 1902 ⁽⁶⁾	
Sigma Phi Epsilon	Iowa Delta	May 9, 1948		Chi Delta, January 30, 1907
Square and Compass ⁽⁷⁾	Drake	April 30, 1926	1930	The Ashlar Club, February 1925

National Fraternities Installed At Drake University

Tau Kappa Epsilon	Alpha Xi	December 18, 1932	The Zuma Club, October 8, 1921; Delta Zeta Chi, December 18, 1921
Theta Chi	Gamma Tau	April 23, 1949	Chi Alpha colony, December 2, 1947
Zeta Beta Tau	Beta Psi	May 7, 1969 ⁽⁸⁾	Phi Epsilon Phi, October 22, 1965

- (1) The charter members of Alpha Nu consisted of six students from Iowa State College and one student from Drake University. Alpha Nu was reinstalled on May 1, 1976, when a charter was presented to a group named the Typical Alpha Men (TAMS) which had formed in February 1975.
- (2) Phi Gamma Lambda, a Drake local fraternity founded on October 28, 1912, merged into Delta Omicron chapter of Alpha Tau Omega on May 24, 1931.
- (3) Since there was no actual installation of Tau Eta by the national organization, the date given is that of the university's recognition of the organization.
- (4) The national organization merged into Pi Lambda Phi on February 1, 1941.
- (5) Gamma Sigma Kappa, a Drake local fraternity founded on October 11, 1906, merged into Iowa Delta chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon on May 26, 1928.
- (6) Although the national organization did not withdraw Beta Delta's charter until 1902, the chapter had in fact ceased to operate by the fall of 1893.
- (7) The national organization merged into Sigma Mu Sigma on August 3, 1952.
- (8) The national fraternity Phi Epsilon Pi installed Phi Epsilon Phi as its Beta Psi chapter in 1969. In March 1970 the national fraternity merged into Zeta Beta Tau.

Appendix VIII

National Women's Fraternities (Sororities) Installed At Drake University

	Chapter	Date Installed	Date Charter Withdrawn	Campus Origin
Alpha Chi Omega	Alpha Theta	June 10, 1921	October 19, 1933	Alpha Rho Omega, December 3, 1914
Alpha Epsilon Phi	Alpha Omega	October 25, 1952	November 1973	The Neonates Club, fall 1948; Delta Rho colony, November 13, 1950
Alpha Kappa Alpha	Eta Tau	June 14, 1973		Tiakas, 1969
Alpha Phi	Gamma Omicron	March 1, 1958		Colonized October 6, 1957
Alpha Sigma Alpha ⁽¹⁾	Iota Iota	January 14, 1922	1936	The Grade Club, October 1916
Alpha Xi Delta	Alpha Iota	September 10, 1921	June 18, 1976	Iota Delta Omicron, October 14, 1909
Chi Omega	Rho Beta	April 29, 1921		Gamma Delta Phi, November 19, 1907
Delta Gamma	Alpha Lambda	April 30, 1921		Iota Alpha Omega, November 20, 1906
Delta Sigma Theta ⁽²⁾	Phi	June 1925		
Delta Zeta	Gamma Epsilon	April 1, 1946	1979	Colonized February 17, 1946
Gamma Phi Beta	Gamma Upsilon	February 17, 1968	1983	Colonized September 30, 1967

National Women's Fraternities (Sororities) Installed At Drake University

Kappa Alpha Theta	Beta Kappa	April 30, 1921		Beta Chi Upsilon, April 14, 1907
Kappa Kappa Gamma	Gamma Theta	April 30, 1921		Epsilon Tau Sigma, October 15, 1903
Phi Mu	Zeta Delta	September 10, 1922	1932	Phi Sigma, spring 1922
	(Reinstalled)	December 4, 1948	1952	Colonized November 4, 1948
Pi Beta Phi	Iowa Eta	October 8, 1983		Colonized March 30, 1983

⁽¹⁾Although the national organization operated as a professional education sorority from 1914-51, the Drake chapter functioned as a social sorority, and was a member of the Panhellenic Council from 1922-25.

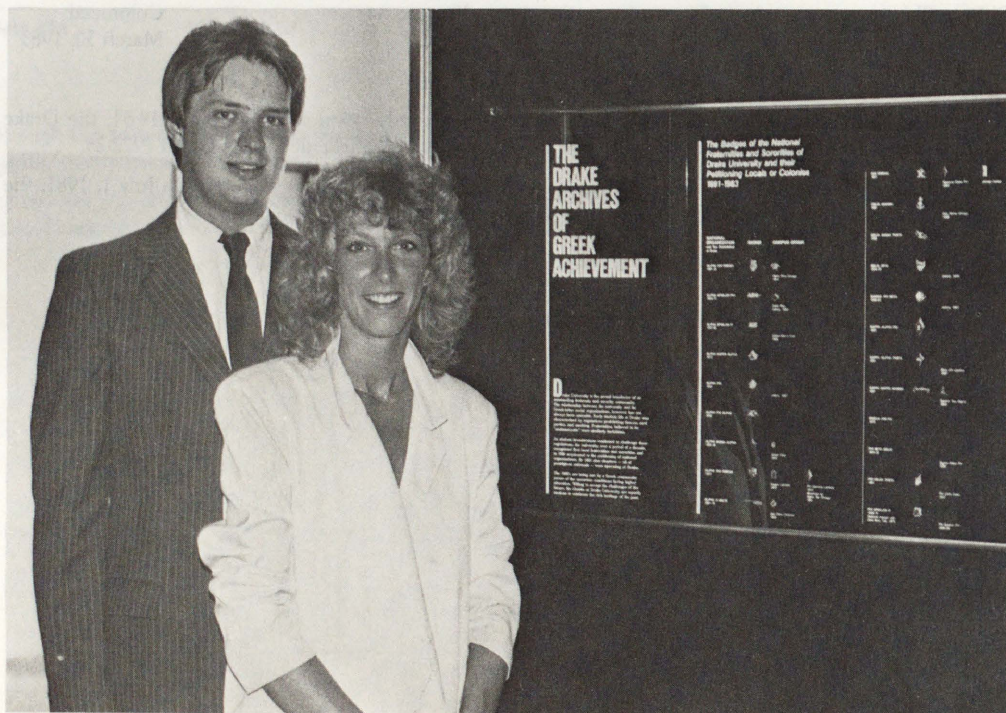
⁽²⁾The chapter was originally installed as a mixed, undergraduate and graduate chapter. On July 1, 1981, the national organization redesignated Phi as a purely undergraduate organization.

Kappa Alpha Theta	Beta Kappa	April 30, 1921		Beta Chi Upsilon, April 14, 1907
Kappa Kappa Gamma	Gamma Theta	April 30, 1921		Epsilon Tau Sigma, October 15, 1903
Phi Mu	Zeta Delta	September 10, 1922	1932	Phi Sigma, spring 1922
	(Reinstalled)	December 4, 1948	1952	Colonized November 4, 1948
Pi Beta Phi	Iowa Eta	October 8, 1983		Colonized March 30, 1983

(1) Although the national organization operated as a professional education sorority from 1914-51, the Drake chapter functioned as a social sorority, and was a member of the Panhellenic Council from 1922-25.

(2) The chapter was originally installed as a mixed, undergraduate and graduate chapter. On July 1, 1981, the national organization redesignated Phi as a purely undergraduate organization.

About The Authors



Dave Phipps

The authors at the July 1983 dedication of the Drake Archives of Greek Achievement.

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